

# The Illustrated LONDON NEWS

## HOLIDAY 83:

Places to go Things to do Sights to see

JANUARY 1983 £1.10

Dr James Bevan

**THE REALITIES OF DEATH**

The Counties:

**ELSPETH HUXLEY'S WILTSHIRE**

Julian Critchley

**PROFILE OF LYNDY CHALKER**

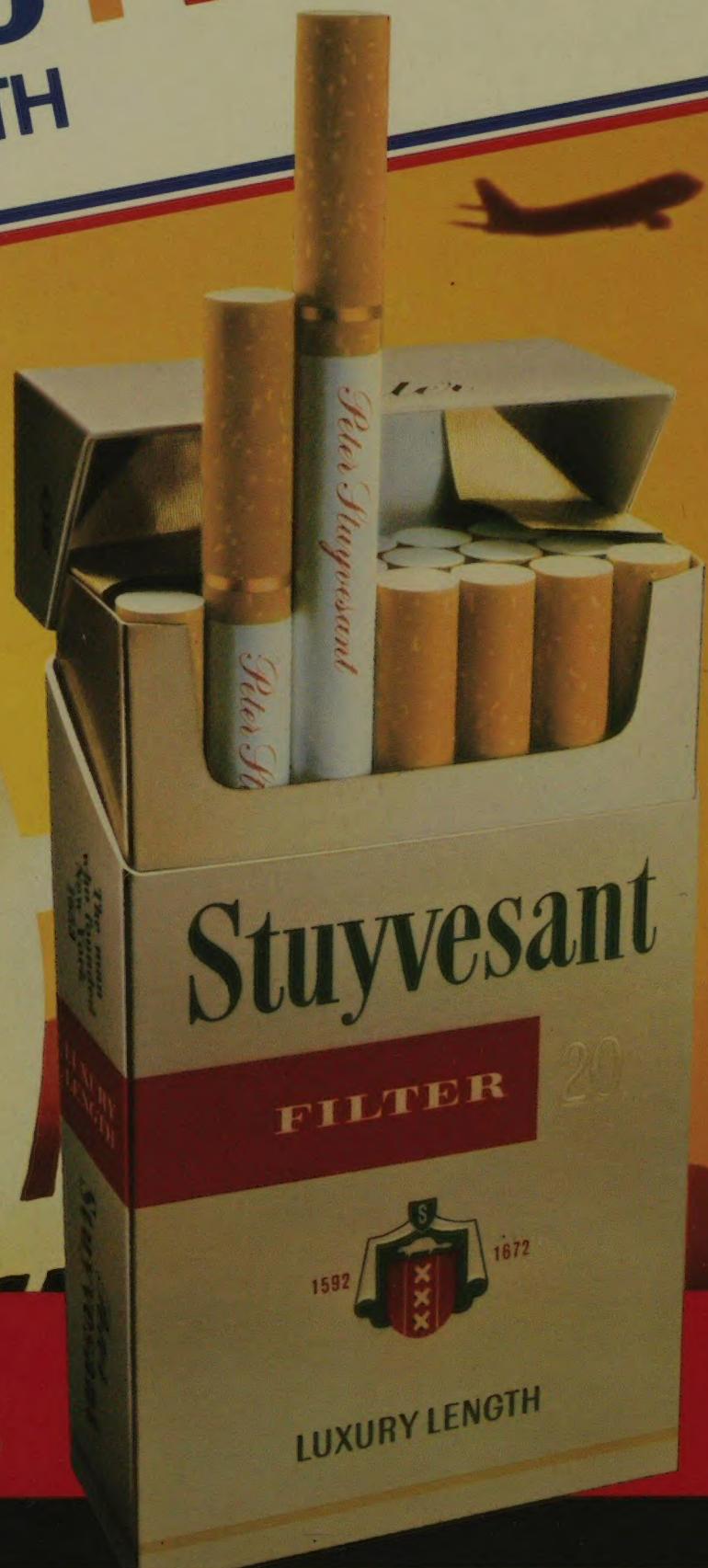
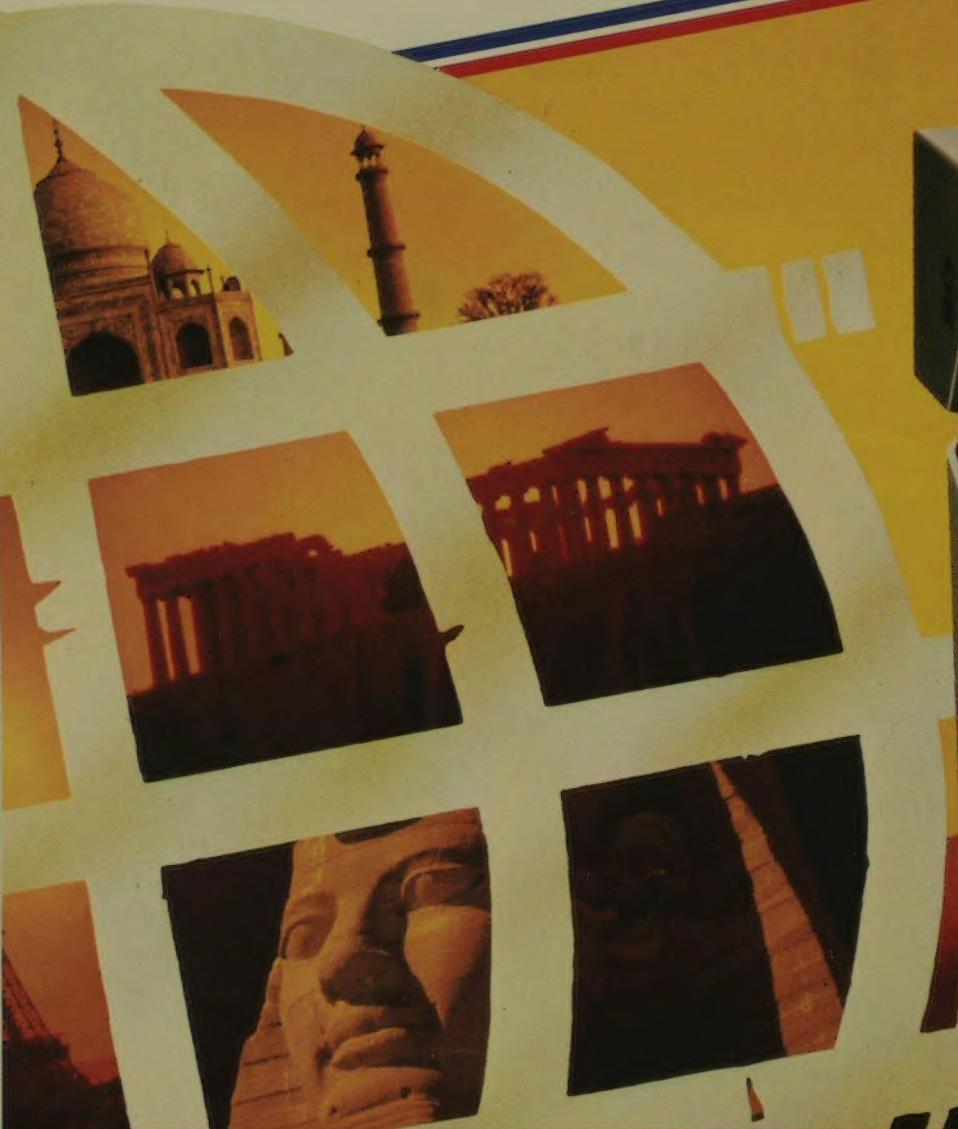


Full guide to what's on in January starts page 64

**BRIEFING**

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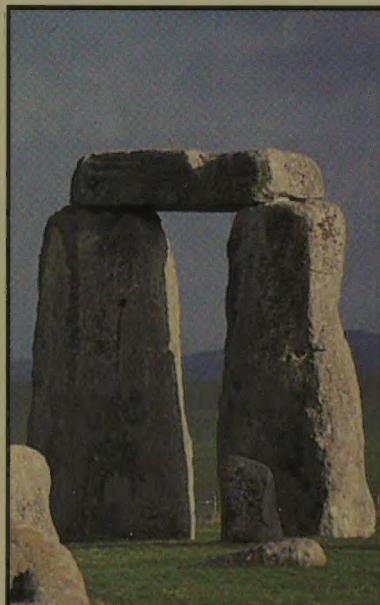
Number 7014 Volume 271 January 1983



Getting away: ideas for holidays.



New trams for the Docklands.



Elspeth Huxley's view of Wiltshire.

THE ILLUSTRATED  
LONDON NEWS

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**Frequency:** monthly plus Christmas number. You can make sure of receiving your copy of *The Illustrated London News* each month by placing a firm order with your newsagent or by taking out a personal subscription. Please send orders for subscriptions to:

Subscription Department, 23-29 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3QJ. Telephone 01-404 5531.

UK news trade agents: S. M. Distribution Ltd, 16/18 Trinity Gardens, London SW9 8DX. USA agents: British Publications Inc, 11-03 46th Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101, USA; and Expeditors of the Printed Word Ltd, 527 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA. Second class postage paid in New York, NY.

## Holiday 83

In search of some unusual holidays for 1983, our writers have gone on safari, seen Europe by coach, sailed in the Mediterranean and tried their hand at many different activities including golfing and riding. Cover photograph by David Higgs.

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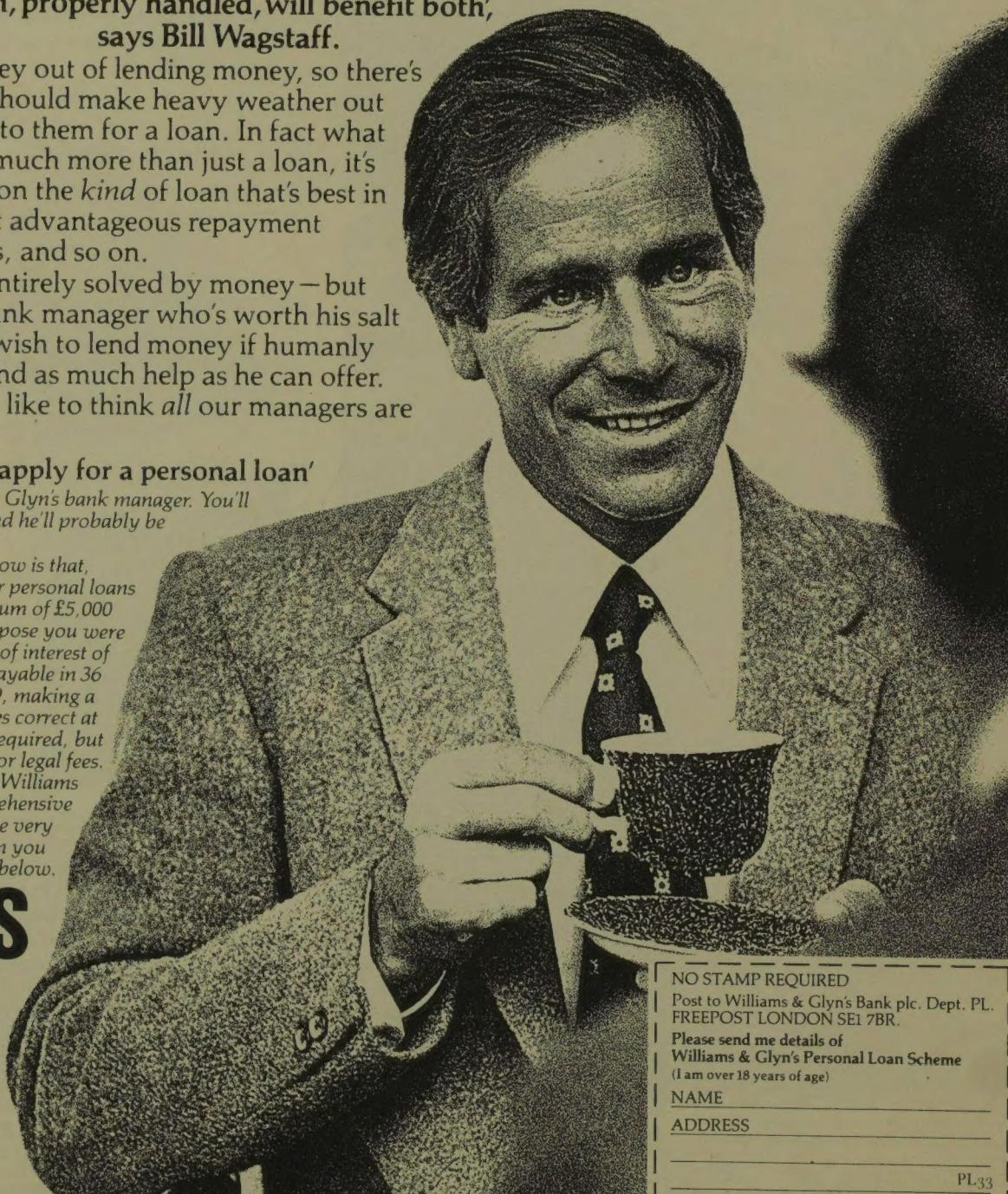
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# BRIEFING

An informed, comprehensive guide to entertainment and events in and around the capital.

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Edited by Alex Finer

Researched by Angela Bird and Miranda Madge

# "We are a nation of short memories"

(WINSTON CHURCHILL)



Medallion struck by the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company in January 1945 to commemorate the two "Battles of London" in 1940 and 1941. Packed in handsome presentation cases the medallions were sold on behalf of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and have since become collectors items.

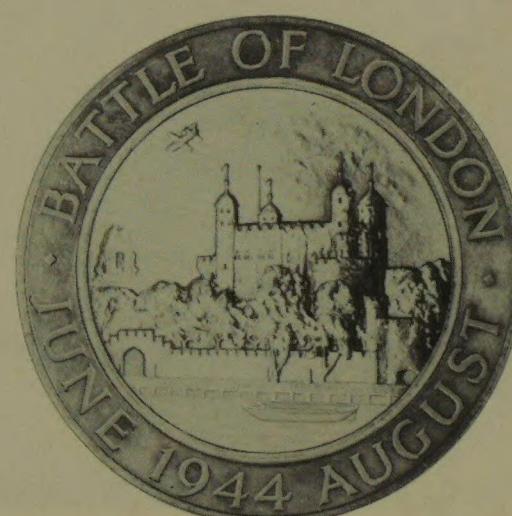
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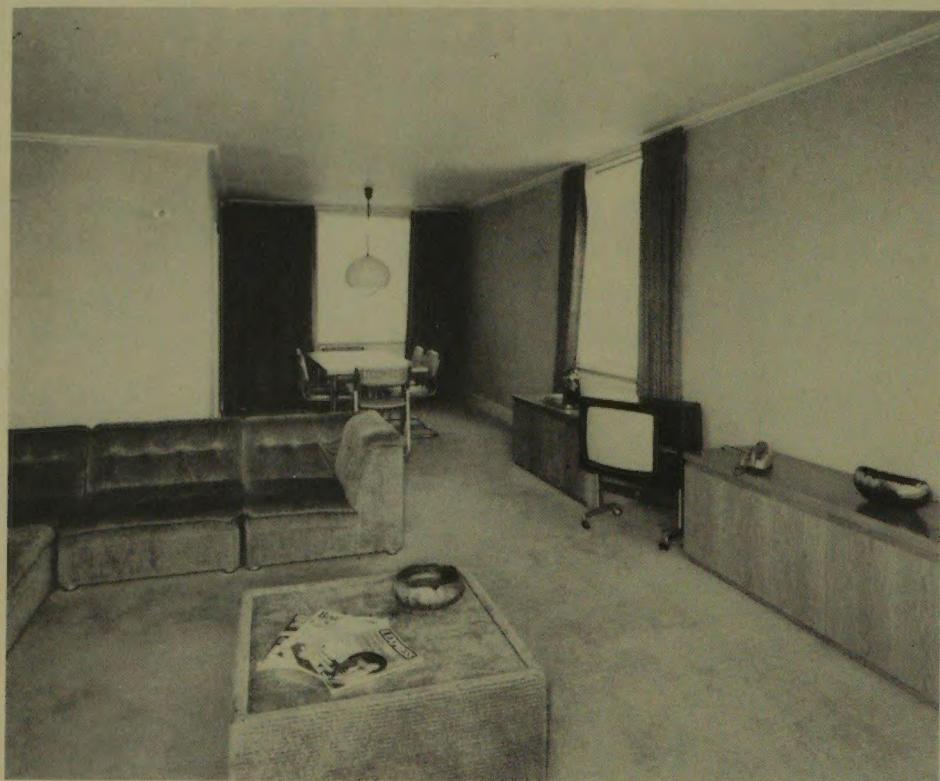
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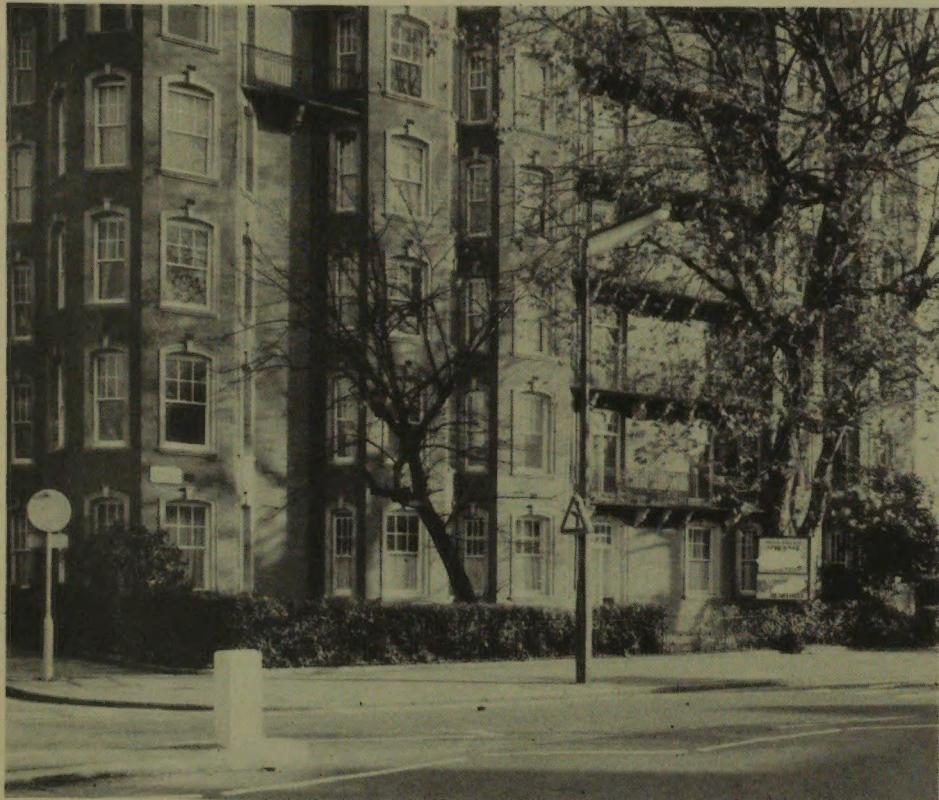
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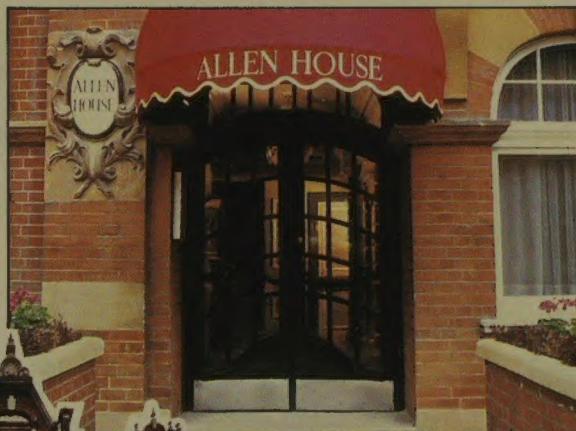
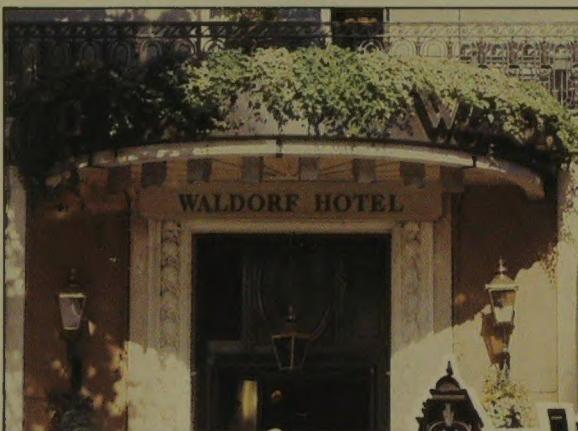


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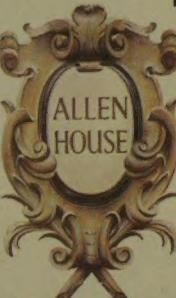
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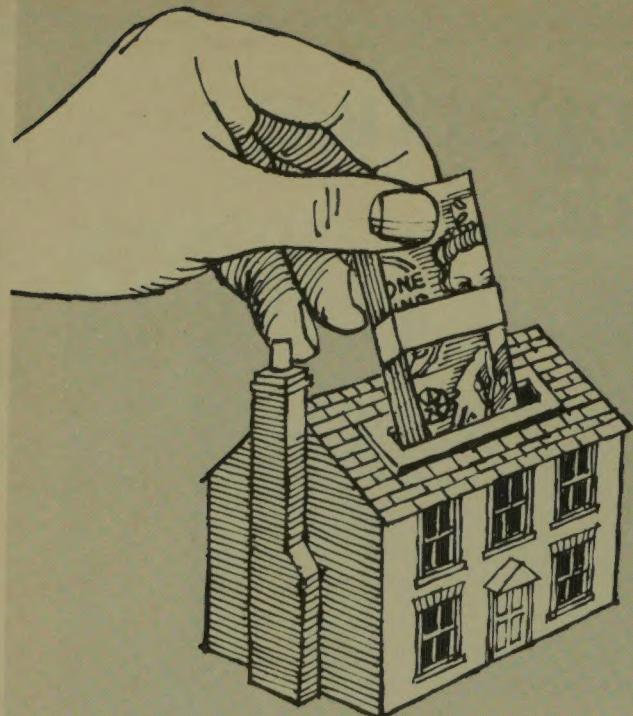
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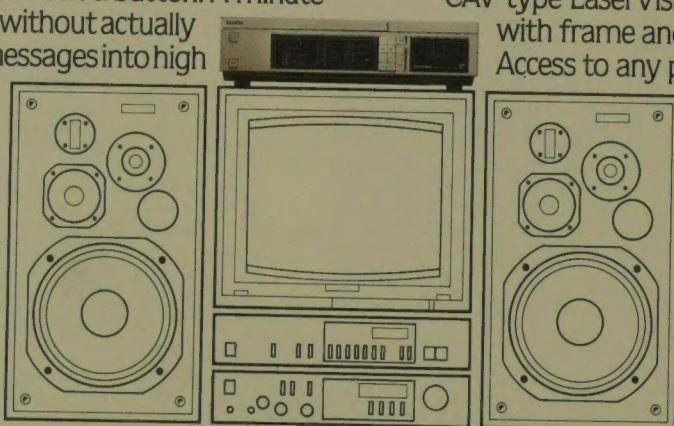
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## Mr Andropov's first moves



Yuri Andropov was quick to establish his authority in the Soviet Union following the death of Leonid Brezhnev. Although he was not Brezhnev's chosen successor—that dubious honour was believed to have been disposed on Konstantin Chernenko—he was nonetheless reported to have been "unanimously elected" as General Secretary of the Communist Party not much more than a day after the death of Brezhnev was announced, and as if to emphasize the effectiveness of his control his nomination was made by Mr Chernenko. This might be taken as something of a rebuff to the memory of Brezhnev, and as a hint that a change is in the air, but it would be unwise to jump to any such conclusion so soon. As Norman Moss points out in his article on page 20 of this issue, there is no reason to suppose yet that the change in the Kremlin will alter the relationship between the two superpowers, which has in recent years been much closer to cold war than détente. Certainly Mr Andropov has offered no olive branch to the West during his first weeks at the top, or nothing that could confidently be discerned as an olive branch by those who make it their business to interpret those intricate signs and complex code-words by which those in control of the Kremlin indicate (or fail to indicate, as the case may be) their intentions to the outside world.

Mr Andropov's background is not encouraging. Now 68, he was head of the KGB for 15 years until May this year, when he became a secretary of the Central Committee. Control of the secret police is without doubt a good position from which to build a power base in Russia, but it is less likely to provide much understanding of the world beyond the Soviet borders. However Andropov had already had valuable experience in a foreign Communist field, notably as Ambassador to Hungary where, in 1956, he played his part in putting

Among the Soviet leaders at Mr Brezhnev's funeral were (from left): Gaidar Aliyev, Azerbaijan party chief; Vladimir Shcherbitsky, Ukraine party chief; Dmitri Ustinov, Defence Minister; Yuri Andropov; Nikolai Tikhonov, Prime Minister; Konstantin Chernenko; Andrei Gromyko, Foreign Minister; Viktor Grishin, Moscow party chief; and Mikhail Gorbachov, Agriculture Minister.

down the liberal revolt. He has been identified nonetheless as something of a moderate in Soviet terms, and seems in the past to have been in sympathy with the ideas of détente and peaceful co-existence. The practice of double-speak suggests that, to protect his position and retain the support of the armed forces, he will have, if détente is to be his policy in relations with the West, to talk tough.

That is certainly how he has begun. His first remarks on foreign affairs were as forceful as Brezhnev's. "We know full well that it is useless to beg for peace to the imperialists," he said. "Peace can only be upheld if we rely on the invincible might of the Soviet armed forces." He warned that any attempt at aggression would be met with a crushing rebuff.

After the ritual words came some small indications of possible change. The first seems likely to be in relations with China. An attempt to reconcile differences between the two Communist powers had indeed already been begun by Brezhnev. The pace is now quickening and a start, which should be welcomed in the West, might be made with Afghanistan. It will not be easy for the Soviet Union to find a face-saving formula to pull its troops out of Afghanistan, but it seems that a search for one may now be on. Certainly it is part of the price that will have to be paid, along with the withdrawal of support for Vietnam and its occupation of Kampuchea and the removal of Soviet troops from the Chinese borders, for a thaw in rela-

tions with China. It is also, as both President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher have indicated, one of the requirements for improving relations with the West.

There are many good reasons why the new Soviet leader should at least try to establish better relations with the Communist nations on both eastern and western borders, and a degree of détente, or at least a period of peaceful co-existence, with the West. The most compelling, on any rational analysis, are domestic, for Soviet internal problems are such as should require total concentration to resolve, with no time for the distractions of foreign adventures. The agricultural system fails to provide enough food, and has to be supported by grain imports from the United States. Economic targets are not being met, economic growth has come close to a standstill, and all the while huge spending on the armed forces and on military supplies absorbs resources needed to improve productivity in other areas. Mr Andropov did not pull his punches on the state of the Soviet economy when he presided over his first meeting of the Central Committee. He was critical of the fact that the introduction of new technology was being hindered by poor management and he said that Soviet productivity could satisfy nobody. He called for more decentralization and suggested that Soviet managers could take some lessons from the outside world.

Perhaps they will be allowed to. It is more likely that bureaucracy will get in the way, just as it is probable, no matter what Mr Andropov's intentions may be, that the tight totalitarian web in which the Soviet Union has wrapped itself will again prove too strong and too stultifying for any real change in east-west relations to emerge from an enforced shuffle in the Kremlin. The West can hope, and can be ready to respond if the opportunity comes, but it must also look to its defences.

## Monday, November 8

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, announced autumn budget measures. They included a 1 per cent cut in National Insurance Surcharge from next April and a 1/2 per cent cut this year; an increase in national insurance contributions from April, up by 0.25 per cent for employees and by 0.2 per cent for employers, together with a raising of lower and upper limits; and a cut in benefits for next year to compensate for falling inflation.

The Social Services Secretary, Norman Fowler, announced the provision of an extra £80 million for the National Health Service for the next financial year.

Frank Swinnerton the novelist died aged 98 on November 6.

## Tuesday, November 9

More than 1,000 Soviet troops and Afghan civilians died and another 200 were injured after a collision between a petrol tanker and the leading vehicle of a Soviet military convoy in the Salang Pass tunnel north of Kabul. The tunnel was sealed off after the accident following rumours of a guerrilla attack and most of the victims were asphyxiated.

The Government gave planning permission for a second terminal, costing £150 million, to be built at Gatwick airport, which would increase in size to near that of Heathrow and add 11,000 jobs to its 13,000 staff.

At least 163 people were reported dead in a 125 mph hurricane that devastated the coast of Gujarat State in north-west India.

Denmark vetoed the EEC's common fishery policy, persisting with a demand to fish off the west coast of Scotland and to trawl in Shetland waters.

An RUC officer and a woman who was with him were killed by a car bomb near Enniskillen.

## Wednesday, November 10

President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union died after a heart attack aged 75.

believed to have caused the disaster.

The space shuttle Columbia lifted off from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, its fifth mission, carrying two communications satellites.



The Polish military government announced its decision to release Lech Walesa, leader of the outlawed union Solidarity. He rejoined his family in Gdansk on November 14 and, in a speech to supporters, vowed not to betray the principles of the union he once headed.

A £100 million contract for British firms to modernize the Chinese navy's destroyer fleet was signed in Peking.

## Friday, November 12

Yuri Andropov, former head of the KGB secret police, was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party in succession to Leonid Brezhnev. On November 23 he was made a member of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet.

British building societies cut the mortgage rate to 10 per cent; inflation fell again in October, to 6.8 per cent; and the Government promised to peg electricity prices for 1983.

## Saturday, November 13

President Reagan lifted American sanctions against European companies supplying components for the Soviet gas pipeline.

Spectators invaded the pitch during the first Test match between England and Australia in Perth. Terry Alderman, the Australian fast bowler, suffered a dislocated shoulder in the ensuing scuffles and 25 arrests were made. The match was drawn.

Chesney Allen, last survivor of the Grazy Gang, died aged 88.

## Sunday, November 14

The British cargo ship *Nesam* sank in heavy seas off the Scilly Isles. Four of her crew of 11 died, another was missing, and six were rescued.

Two Russian cosmonauts in Salut 7 set a new space endurance record of 185 days in orbit.

## Monday, November 15

The pound touched its lowest level against the dollar for six years, falling to \$1.6340. The slide continued, reaching \$1.58, and against the Deutschmark fell to DM 3.9925 by November 24.

Dr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, flew to Washington for two days of talks with President Reagan.

## Tuesday, November 16

Two policemen, a Roman Catholic shopkeeper and a prominent Loyalist were shot dead in three separate sectarian murders in northern Ireland. The father of an informer, Patrick Gilmore, was kidnapped by the Provisional IRA on November 18 in Londonderry. The son was in police protection.

Riots in Poland by supporters of the suppressed union Solidarity in Warsaw and other large cities, marking the second anniversary of its foundation, were broken up by Zomo riot police. 270 arrests were made in Warsaw.

The Labour Party's National Executive Committee postponed the expulsion of the five members of the editorial board of *Militant* pending legal advice.

## Thursday, November 11

A massive explosion in Israel's military headquarters in Tyre, Lebanon, killed 90 people, mainly Israeli soldiers and security staff. A gas explosion was

believed to have caused the disaster.

The space shuttle Columbia lifted off from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, its fifth mission, carrying two communications satellites.

Former Liberal leader Jo Grimond, 69, announced he would not stand for Parliament in the next election.

Arthur Askey the comedian died aged 82.

## Wednesday, November 17

It was announced that the Round Oak steel works at Brierley Hill in the West Midlands would close at the end of the year with the loss of 1,300 jobs.

The board of governors of Great Ormond Street Hospital group recommended with regret the closure of Tadworth Hospital for Sick Children because of lack of money. The group would have a deficit of £1.2 million by April, 1983.

## Thursday, November 18

An Argentine ship left St Nazaire with a cargo of five French-made Super Etendard aircraft fully equipped with Exocet missiles of the type that sank two British ships in the Falklands campaign. The weapons had been ordered by the Argentine government before operations began.

## Friday, November 19

Wu Xiuguan, a deputy Foreign Minister and former deputy head of the Communist Party's International Liaison Department, replaced Huang Hua as China's Foreign Minister; and Zhang Aiping, a military technocrat, replaced Geng Biao as the country's Defence Minister.

The 1982 Asian Games opened in Delhi.

## Saturday, November 20

Following a dispute over the removal of a printing machine, sick pay and safety at work, the management of *The Daily Telegraph* dismissed 450 machine room men after they had stopped production of the *Sunday Telegraph* against the instructions of their union, Sogat 82. *The Daily Telegraph* had not been published in London since November 17. It was produced again on November 29 following settlement of the dispute which cost £1.5 million and lost seven million copies of the two papers.

Underwriters for the £548 million sale to the private sector of Britoil shares were left with 70.75 per cent of the issue unsold after the application list closed.

Lord Redcliffe-Maud, the academic and civil servant who was largely responsible for local government re-organization in the 1960s, died aged 76.

## Monday, November 21



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother had a successful operation to remove a fish bone from her throat.

## Tuesday, November 22

The National Coal Board confirmed plans to shut about 60 pits by 1991 on grounds of exhaustion. Miners' leaders claimed up to 60,000 jobs were at risk.

national newspapers in 1982.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands began a four-day state visit to Britain.

Wednesday, November 23

Professor Graham Smith, 59, was appointed Astronomer Royal.

Wednesday, November 24



Yashuhiro Nakasone, 64, a conservative, became Japan's Prime Minister.

Details were released of P & O's new £80 million cruise liner, probably to be called *Princess Diana*, which was being built in Finland and expected to be operating in the late 1980s.

El Al, the Israeli national airline, was put into liquidation. The Israeli government was to try to set up a new national carrier.

Five people were killed and 32 injured when two bombs exploded in the Pamir shopping area of Kabul. This followed a series of explosions in the city during November in which at least 16 people had been killed.

## Thursday, November 25

In the third general election in the Irish Republic in 18 months neither major party gained a clear majority. The results were Fianna Fail, under Charles Haughey, 75, Fine Gael 70, Labour 16, others 5. The Labour party under Richard Spring would hold the balance in any coalition formed.

## Friday, November 26

Barclay's Bank and the Trustee Savings Banks raised their interest rates from 9 per cent to 10 per cent, Midland to 10½ per cent, and were soon followed by other British banks. As a result the pound began to recover from its slide.

British Leyland announced a three-week halt in the production of Metro cars over the Christmas period because of a decline in sales.

The Iron and Steel Trades Federation announced they would picket companies which had been importing cheap foreign steel.

The remains of a child dating from more than 200,000 years ago were found in a cave in Wales. They were broadly coeval with the Swanscombe skull from Kent, an early specimen of *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*.

## Sunday, November 28

A British engineer, Robert Maxwell, was sentenced to 12 years in prison and fined £85,000 by a revolutionary court in Libya, having already been held in prison for two years. He was accused of accepting money illegally in the course of his job. The Foreign Office made an immediate protest.

During a visit by the French President François Mitterrand to India agreement was reached between the two countries for the supply of enriched uranium fuel to the Tarapur nuclear power station.

## Monday, November 29

The meeting of delegates to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) at Geneva pledged, after five days of serious discussion, "to resist protectionism", a promise falling short of earlier expectations.

British Leyland announced they were to recruit 1,100 more workers for the Austin Rover complex at Cowley, Oxford, to make their new car.

Queen Helen of Rumania, a cousin of Prince Philip, died aged 86.

## Tuesday, November 30

Incendiary devices were posted to the Prime Minister, to party leaders Michael Foot, David Steel and Roy Jenkins, and to Timothy Raison, the Home Office minister responsible for animal legislation, by the previously unknown Animal Rights Militia. The device sent to No 10 Downing Street ignited as it was being opened by the office manager, slightly scorching his face and hair. The others were defused.

President Reagan arrived in Brasilia for a five-day tour of Latin America.

A man wanted for questioning in connexion with the Tylenol poisoning deaths in the United States was arrested in Los Angeles.

## Wednesday, December 1

A remote-controlled car bomb exploded in west Beirut, killing four people and injuring 39 others, including Walid Jumblatt, leader of Lebanon's Muslim Druze community.

Senator Edward Kennedy announced he would not be a candidate for the American presidential election in 1984.

Britain's pioneer submarine, *Holland 1*, was brought to the surface at Devonport for the first time since she sank near the Eddystone Lighthouse on her way to the breaker's yard in 1913.

Britain's newest submarine, the 4,500-ton hunter-killer nuclear submarine *Turbulent*, was launched at Barrow in Furness.

## Thursday, December 2

Labour held the Glasgow Queen's Park seat with a majority reduced from 9,478 in the 1979 general election to 5,694. The Scottish National Party candidate came second; Conservative and Liberal candidates lost their deposits.

Britain's jobless total rose by 14,000 in November to 3,063,026.

The Soviet naval attaché, Captain Anatoli Pavlovich Zотов, was given eight days to leave Britain because of "inadmissible activities".

Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, had his passport confiscated by Zimbabwe officials. The next day police raided his house and seized documents and letters.

Sir Freddie Laker's new holiday company was refused membership of the Association of British Travel Agents. He was to appeal.

John McCarthy, governor of Wormwood Scrubs, resigned because he saw no hope of improvements in prison conditions.

Four years of serious drought in Australia had caused crop losses worth £1.5 million, with grain crops halved and cattle slaughtered because of lack of fodder for them.

Surgeons at the University of Utah successfully implanted an artificial plastic heart into a 61-year-old man. The device was linked by 6 foot hoses to a mobile compressor which drives it.

## Friday, December 3

The British Steel Corporation announced a further 2,000 job losses — a total of nearly 6,000 in four days. The Government was to write off a further £1,000 million of loans to British Steel.

The Prince of Wales gave Kit Hill, near Callington, on 300 acres of land, to the people of Cornwall to mark the birth of Prince William.

Marty Feldman, the comedian, died aged 49.

## Saturday, December 4

Spain announced an 8 per cent devaluation of the peseta as from December 5.

## Sunday, December 5

British Airways disclosed a half year profit of £80 million.

Caryl Brahms, the writer and critic, died aged 81.



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REX FEATURES

**Brezhnev's funeral:** Russian leaders buried President Brezhnev in Red Square before 100,000 people. His body was brought on a gun carriage from the House of Unions where it had lain in state for three days. After the ceremony the new party leader Yuri Andropov met statesmen from more than 70 countries.

## WINDOW ON THE WORLD

**Visitors from Holland:** Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, accompanied by her husband Prince Claus, paid a four-day state visit to Britain. She was greeted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh when she disembarked from the barge *Royal Nore* at Westminster Pier, right. Later the royal visitors had lunch with the Prime Minister at No 10 Downing Street, below left, and attended a session of the Court of Common Council in Guildhall, with the Lord Mayor, Sir Anthony Jolliffe, below right. At the banquet which followed, Queen Beatrix pleaded strongly for Britain's continued membership of the EEC.



PRESS ASSOCIATION



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**Royal engagements:** The Princess of Wales went on a two-day tour of North Wales, where she charmed a senior citizen at Aberdyfi Wharf, left. With the Prince of Wales in Wrexham, bottom, she went on to unveil a memorial to commemorate the 266 miners who died in a disaster at Gresford Colliery in 1934, below left. Also on the Princess's busy schedule was a visit to a playgroup in Cirencester, below.



PRESS ASSOCIATION



PRESS ASSOCIATION



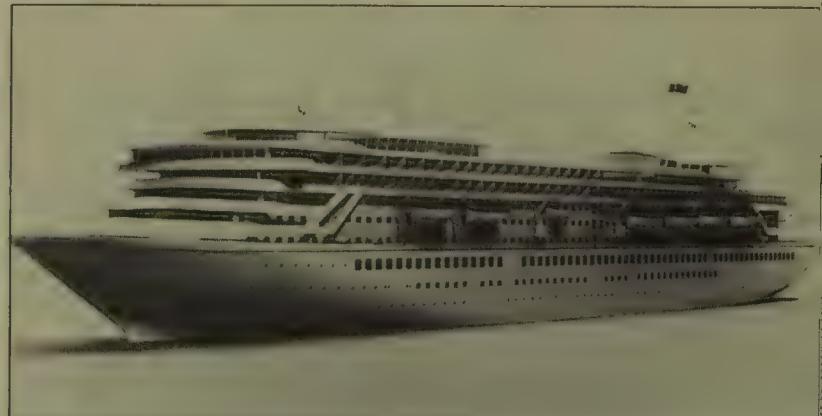
PRESS ASSOCIATION



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Top tourer: British Leyland have introduced a new coach, the Royal Tiger Doyen.



Luxury liner: All passengers on P&O's new £80 million liner will have a sea view through the ship's picture windows. She is under construction in Finland.



Oldest and latest: On the same day that the Royal Navy's latest hunter-killer nuclear submarine, HMS *Turbulent*, was launched at Barrow-in-Furness, top left, Britain's first submarine, *Holland I*, was raised to the surface at Devonport Dockyard. The *Holland I* sank near the Eddystone Lighthouse in 1913.



PRESS ASSOCIATION

**Narrow escape:** A woman barrister, Jane Watt, the daughter of a Northern Ireland judge, and her passenger escaped uninjured when police noticed a bomb attached to the underside of the car she was driving outside the Crumlin Road courthouse in Belfast. The device exploded before bomb disposal experts could defuse it.



RICHARD DAVIES

**Camden's canopy:** A cast-iron Victorian canopy, originally part of Elstree station, has been rebuilt on a paved plinth alongside Kentish Town tube station.



PRESS ASSOCIATION

**Christmas in London:** Regent Street from Piccadilly to Oxford Circus was illuminated by 55,000 lamps on an arcade of Christmas trees. The display cost £70,000.

## WINDOW ON THE WORLD

**Hotels for sale:** The British Transport Hotels Group are to sell by public tender 21 of their hotels in England and Scotland, some of which we illustrate below. Others include the Midland, Manchester, and the Central and the North British, Glasgow. Offers should be made to Christie & Co or Druce & Co.



The Grosvenor, Victoria, a Grade II listed building, 1860-61, by J. T. Knowles.



The Adelphi, Liverpool, built between 1912-14, architect R. Frank Atkinson.



The Welcombe, Stratford-upon-Avon, once the home of George Trevelyan.



Lochalsh Hotel, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire, formerly an Edwardian residence.



The Turnberry Hotel, Ayrshire, for sale with its two championship golf courses.



Tregenna Castle, St Ives, Cornwall, dating from 1774 with later additions.



Great Western Royal, Paddington, built 1850-52, architect Philip Hardwick.



Charing Cross Hotel, built in 1865, architect Edward Middleton Barry.

# The freedom of the southern seas

by Sir Arthur Bryant

The truth behind a historian's thinking—and of the craft he tries to practise—is that in this world one thing leads to another. The logic of the ladder of time is inexorable, and all historical error arises from failure to respect and observe that logic. That is why moral disputes between nations can be resolved only by a reference to history, for the moral convictions of the disputants arise out of their respective and differing pasts. The confrontation between the free West and the authoritarian rule which prevails from the Elbe and Berlin Wall to the farthest confines of Siberia is explicable only by the contrast between the democratic forms and practices of society which have grown up over the centuries in the Christian West compared with the authoritarian tyrannies which have been the norm in the pagan lands of eastern Europe and central and northern Asia.

Thus, the conflicts that have arisen between Britain and Argentina sprang, and still spring, from the fact that while the rulers and people of this country have for centuries subscribed to and practised the democratic belief that men should not be constrained by force but should be free, within the bounds of mutually agreed law, to speak, travel, trade and live as they please, the rulers of the Argentine, like their Latin-American-Spanish predecessors of long ago, still subscribe to the authoritarian principle of the 16th-century Spanish royal state that obedience to government is the first civil duty of subject man, and that the first duty of government is to repress any divergence or dissidence from this conception. Thus, as I suggested on this page last month, the Argentine claim to sovereignty of the Falklands and the forcible subjection to their tyrannical rule of their peaceful British settlers which followed it sprang, as its own propaganda so artlessly makes plain, from the claim, sanctified by the papal grant of 1493, that the vast areas of unexplored ocean and all the unknown lands adjoining them, inhabited or uninhabited, opened out to western man by the heroic voyages of Portuguese and Genoese mariners should solely belong for all time to the Iberian kingdoms of Spain and Portugal, and be forbidden to the entry, trade or settlement of the peoples of all other nations. But the maritime nations of Christian and western Europe—the fishermen of Breton France, the traders of Tudor England and the "sea beggars" of the new Dutch nation—arose during the latter 16th century, with English help, in protest against the intolerant and cruel Spanish imperial oppression of the Netherlands evoking a natural and ever-growing libertarian response to the Spanish authoritarian

monopoly of the new-found trans-Atlantic and Pacific world.

Out of that challenge sprang Drake's wonderful circumnavigatory voyage into the Spanish-closed Pacific, the defeat of the Spanish Armada sent to conquer England, the colonization of the coast of North America by libertarian-minded English settlers despite Spain's claim to rule and occupy the whole American continent and, in the fullness of time, the foundation of the United States of America dedicated to the proposition that men are born free and, in Jefferson's noble words—"that all men are created equal and independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent and inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, and liberty, and the pursuit of happiness . . .".

What a contrast do the ideals and principles enshrined in these words provide to those which still govern the actions of the military rulers of modern Argentina, and their atrocious treatment of their own political dissidents.

Close on two centuries after Drake's first single-handed, emancipatory challenge to Spain's monopoly of the Pacific, and within a generation of Britain's North American colonists' Declaration of Independence from European pater-

nalistic tutelage, Spain was still claiming to treat the Pacific and the lands adjoining it as a closed Spanish monopoly. It was because of that continued claim by Spain's moribund yet still powerful, imperial rulers that the dispute over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands arose.

For as the learned introduction to that vast classic of documentary academic history, the 2,000 page *Cambridge History of the British Empire* puts it, even as late as 200 years ago, "though the Spanish overseas dominions were immense, still more immense were Spanish claims". And the then Spanish colonial authorities of Buenos Aires, foreshadowing the work of their 19th-century Argentine military successors of massacring the original Indian inhabitants of the vast south-eastern peninsula between them and Cape Horn, emphasized Spain's claim to keep the Pacific a closed sea by ordering the fortification and garrisoning of Juan Fernandez—until then the single usual place of call of those brave pioneers who, like Drake and Anson essayed the still rare feat of negotiating the Straits of Magellan or rounded Cape Horn. Britain needed an island base off the now forbidden Patagonian mainland from which to break into the still

closed Pacific. At that time the French were the chief challengers to British ocean trade and to the British naval power which preserved it, and Spain, whose throne was allied to France's by the Bourbon dynasty, had become little more than an appendage of the latter, whose bid for world power had been halted earlier in the century by the genius of Marlborough and the battle fleet which the great Secretary to the Admiralty, Samuel Pepys, had laid down before the 1688 Revolution. But during the long, peaceful supremacy of Robert Walpole and his successors that fleet had again become inferior in strength and numbers to the combined fleets of France and Spain.

It was the genius of Chatham which in the Seven Years' War restored Britain's naval supremacy and, by his inspired use of it, laid the foundations of British India and Canada. And it was the same strategic genius who, on his return to power three years after his temporary retirement urged the stationing of a British garrison and naval base in the uninhabited and unsurveyed Falklands as an essential key to his country's trade and exploration in the still unknown and under developed South Pacific. England, he told the French and Spanish ambassadors in November, 1766, the very winter in which Commodore John Byron first surveyed the islands on his voyage round the world, would "sooner consent to give up the Tower of London than give up the right of sailing in the South Seas". It was his and his naval successors' insistence on that right which brought about a counter-declaration by the Spanish Ambassador in London that any intrusion by Britain into the South Atlantic would be regarded by Spain as an act of war and brought about the forcible ejection of the small British garrison of Port Vernon by a superior force first sent at Spain's command by the colonial Spanish Governor of Buenos Aires—an act of aggression which, though the subsequent Spanish abject repudiation of the Governor's action and the reinstatement of the British garrison averted actual war, was met by the same salutary ejection of the invaders as that of General Galtieri's invading force two centuries later.

How fortunate for the future of the world it was that Chatham's insistence in 1766 on our right to the entry and freedom of the Pacific prevailed. For it was that which led during the next 20 years to that succession of heroic exploratory voyages by British seamen which solved the mystery of the until then unknown southern continent and assured the future of the great libertarian British-founded nations of Australia and New Zealand, and of the consequent enlargement of peaceful human civilization and freedom throughout the southern hemisphere.

## 100 years ago



This engraving from the ILN of January 27, 1883, shows workmen preparing to pull down and replace the cracked 14th-century central tower of Peterborough Cathedral.

# Any change in the Kremlin?

by Norman Moss

Leonid Brezhnev declared in a speech last November that "Soviet armed might and vigilance will cool the hot heads of some imperialist politicians". He coupled this Russian folk remedy for fever with a warning that any aggressor would be met with "a crushing retaliatory blow".

Ten days after he made that speech Brezhnev was dead and his successor, Yuri Andropov, declared in his first speech as leader of the Soviet Communist Party: "We know full well that it is useless to beg for peace from the imperialists. Only the invincible might of the Soviet armed forces can uphold peace!" A different singer, but the song sounds the same.

It is worth noting the words as well as the tone of this rhetoric. There is a message here. So far as the Soviet leadership is concerned, peace is not achieved through an understanding between the two superpowers, but by one superpower alone making certain that it is strong and can prevail over the other if necessary. Thus, they do not accept any longer even the basis of détente, and the relationship between the two superpowers is in a state bordering on cold war.

There is no sign that the change of leadership in the Kremlin will alter this. Mr Andropov's background does not make him seem a likely harbinger of spring. In any case, Moscow is not the only source of conflict.

Soviet power is spreading itself around the world, from Afghanistan to Angola. The men in the Reagan Administration worry about this, particularly as they tend to see every conflict in the world as a reflection of superpower competition. They long for the old days when America's might could halt Communist expansion anywhere, and fear the consequences of their passing. There are those among them who believe that the best way to deal with the Soviet Union is to make life as difficult as possible for the Soviet government, so that either the whole system will collapse because of its own weakness, or else, at least, the Soviet government will change its behaviour and be more accommodating to the West in order to preserve itself in power.

American officials say they will judge Russia's attitude by its behaviour in Afghanistan and Poland, and Mrs Thatcher said something very similar. But Russia regards both of these countries as being within its sphere of influence, just as it accepts that Central America is within America's sphere of influence, and it is not going to listen to Western strictures on how it should behave there. Of course, leaders on both sides mix some of the rhetoric of détente with that of the cold war. Both sides say they want peace and

improved relations with one another, and two major sets of East-West arms control talks are in progress. But the sound of dispute rings louder and truer than the cooing noises of détente.

So what can we expect from this situation of near-cold war? We are finding, and will continue to find, that East-West relations are affected in nearly every sphere.

Economic relations are affected. They are not suspended. America sells Russia tons and tons of grain, which permits the Soviet people to survive the Soviet agricultural system. Natural gas from Siberia will flow into Western Europe to heat homes and fuel factories. Visitors from each side attend the other's trade fairs. But impediments exist that were not there in sunnier times. The lifting of American sanctions against Western firms participating in the Siberian gas pipeline was a move by the United States to placate its European allies, not the Soviet Union. The Russians will find it more difficult to get Western participation in its projected second pipeline from Siberia. The Western countries have agreed not to lend Russia any more money at low interest rates, not even to finance purchase of their own goods.

Cocom, the Nato committee that sets limits on East-West trade, is currently holding its long triennial meeting in Paris to revise the list of items that may not be sold to Soviet bloc countries because they have military potential. Some electronic gadgetry is being taken off the embargo list on the ground that it is not much use trying to keep it out of the hands of Soviet agents when it can be bought across the counter in Tottenham Court Road. Much more is being added because military applications have been found. Computer circuits sold for civilian use have turned up in the nose cones of Soviet missiles.

There is a wide grey area where there is room for argument about what is and is not military use. After all, some of that American grain probably went to fatten cows that ended up in beef stroganoff in a Soviet Army mess. Where you draw the line depends on what attitude you take. Nowadays Cocom is likely to take a conservative attitude, and when in doubt about an item to add it to the embargo list.

The arms race is mostly an economic one, to see which side can outspend the other. So far as the United States is concerned, it is building and will deploy new missiles in order to counter the threat from a Soviet missile force that in some respects has overtaken it. The trouble is that most of the new missiles that America is planning to deploy, such as the MX and the Pershing 2, are more powerful and more accurate than their predecessors, and so will be perceived by the Russians as first-strike weapons ideal for a surprise attack.

An arms control agreement that would cut off this race is possible but unlikely. There are objective circumstances that would make it difficult with the best will in the world: the geographical imbalance means that some missiles that are to be based in Western Europe will be seen as tactical by Nato because they are intended for tactical targets, and as strategic by the Soviet Union because they can be launched against Soviet territory. (One answer to the long-standing and vexed question of what is a tactical nuclear weapon and what is a strategic one: a tactical nuclear weapon is one that lands on your ally and a strategic nuclear weapon is one that lands on you.)

However, the best will in the world is lacking. Where each side feels that it needs to be the stronger, any potential agreement will be examined in the worst possible light. It will be difficult to sell to the political and military people at home, and this consideration must apply even in the Soviet Union, albeit less publicly than in the West.

In any case, the most intensive and possibly the most costly area of the arms race will not be the deployment of new missiles, but research and development in two new fields of weaponry: space, and laser and particle beams. The international atmosphere will be a major factor in determining how much money the defence technology establishments can get for the projects.

The Soviet government is not likely to make any serious offer on arms control soon. It will wait first to see how far Western plans will be cut back without any concessions on its part, whether the European peace movements will succeed in halting deployment in Europe of the Cruise and the Pershing 2, perhaps with the help of a token offer of Soviet reductions, and whether the new Congress will kill or delay the enormously expensive MX programme.

We can expect to see some hostile political manœuvres between the two superpowers. A compromise resolution at the Conference on European Security and Co-operation that might save the Soviet Union embarrassment is not now likely. Russia will continue to play its China card. This process predates Andropov's accession to power; in each of Brezhnev's last three major speeches he said he would like better relations with China. This will take some of the sugar and spice out of America's relationship with China, which has already been somewhat soured by President Reagan's attitude to Taiwan, and could imperil British plans to sell military equipment to China.

Finally, the hostile atmosphere affects and will continue to affect exchanges at a sub-governmental level in myriad ways. Scientists find that exchange visits are more difficult to organize, and visas are slower in

coming. Businessmen, particularly in America, are slower to grasp opportunities to trade with Russia: it seems not to be in keeping with the mood of the nation, almost unpatriotic.

We can prepare ourselves for trouble on another front. Quarrels between the blocs are going to mean arguments within the Western bloc, and particularly between the United States and its European allies. Most European leaders do not share the Reagan Administration's anti-Communist zeal, nor its confidence that the West has the leverage to force the Soviet Union to change its ways. Europeans are going to be less ready than the US government would like to accept restrictions on trade with the Soviet bloc. We have seen this already in the transatlantic quarrel over the Soviet gas pipeline. Most European countries trade with the Soviet bloc more than America does, particularly West Germany, which sells some 10 per cent of its exports to the Soviet bloc. Furthermore, the Eastern Europeans want to buy goods in just those areas that are hardest hit by the current recession, heavy industry and engineering.

In arms control also there are differences that Russia can exploit. The European governments see the installation of a new generation of American missiles in Europe only as a necessary counter to the Soviet build-up of medium-range missiles, and therefore as negotiable. Despite an American offer to call off deployment in exchange for a Soviet concession that is most unlikely to be made, many Americans see it as an absolute necessity for the maintenance of a credible American deterrent in Europe.

West Germany has made the most concrete gains of any country from détente, and has the most to lose from a return to the cold war. One gain is in trade with the Soviet bloc. Another, very important to the German public, is the improved relations with East Germany. Exchange visits by ordinary Germans are possible, though restricted, and each year some 10,000 East Germans, mostly elderly, come to settle in West Germany. Germans have expressed the fear that this kind of thing might be imperilled by anti-Communist rhetoric emanating from Washington.

Any strong disagreement with an American position, particularly on defence, will produce its reaction in the United States. From all accounts most of the American public are in a mood to listen to anyone who says that if the Europeans are cavilling at defending themselves, then the American taxpayer should not be shelling out so much money to defend them. There would then be more calls in the Senate for a reduction in the number of American troops in Europe, and probably for more trade protectionism against European goods.

# ENCOUNTERS

with Roger Berthoud

## The House's uncommon Clerk

The build-up was impressive, the moment of encounter in no way disappointing. It is a long walk along carpeted corridors from the Members' Lobby to the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons. Once arrived, I commune there alone for a moment with its Victorian emanations and imposing lining of leather-bound volumes. Then in sweeps Sir Charles Gordon himself, tall, magnificently whiskered and bearded, imposing in black court jacket, white tie and grey wig—and even more imposing (and matching up better) when he has removed the wig and plopped it into a vessel on a shelf resembling a large black tea canister.

Clerks, once widespread and lowly, are now rare and tend to be elevated. As far as Sir Charles is concerned, it is an honourable term. He joined after studies at Winchester and Balliol College, Oxford, and wartime service in the Fleet Air Arm—and still has a slightly dashing aura. He was only the 41st to reach the top and be formally styled "Under Clerk of the Parliaments", called "to attend upon the Commons". The first, he recalled, was one Robert de Melton, in 1363. "He was a clergyman: that's what the word means. Only the clergy could read, and basically the clerk was someone who could read."

More is required now, and the Commons' team of 60 clerks must take the same examination as budding administrative grade civil servants. They become not civil servants, but servants of the House, while the Clerk of the House himself is appointed by the Queen—for life, theoretically. "One is expected to give a personal undertaking not to continue unless one is asked to, beyond a certain date. I have given that undertaking and propose to honour it," he said, smiling. "I shall be 65, the normal retiring age next July, and I am in sight of my retirement."

On appointment, the Clerk undertakes "to make true entries, remembrances and journals of things done and passed in the House of Commons". In addition to recording *res actae* like the House's decisions and the results of divisions (as opposed to Hansard's record of *res dictae*), he and his staff give procedural advice to the occupants of all chairs. These range from the Speaker himself to the chairmen of the 45-odd select, standing and sub-committees liable to be in existence at any one time.

A clerk must attend upon each committee. The sort of procedural matters involved would include, Sir Robert explained, the selection of amendments—the chair has the right to reject



Sir Charles Gordon, Clerk of the House of Commons: 36 good years maintaining, Westminster's procedural fabric.

some—and warning of potentially difficult points of order lying ahead. Other tasks involve preparing the order papers which are the foundation of all debates; accepting and scrutinizing all notices of questions (more than 30,000 in each session) and motions; and assisting in the conduct of public and private bills.

As implied in some of Sir Charles's earlier positions—Fourth Clerk at the Table, Principal Clerk of the Table Office—the focal point of the job is the Arthurian-sounding Table. "Five clerks do regular duty at the Table in front of the Speaker, of whom three can be there at any one time. I am always there when each sitting begins, and I usually stay until the main business is under way. I have an official flat just across the road in Norman Shaw South [a parliamentary annexe], so I am always on call." His proper home is in Barnes. A shift system enables his department—130 strong in all—to cope with the anti-social hours.

Sir Charles admitted he had got rather used to the Commons' club-like atmosphere during his 36 years there, and despite some *longueurs* found the job both interesting and deeply enjoyable. The Table, he pointed out, is only the tip of the iceberg (the rest of the department and its committee work being the submerged blunt end). Certainly it is very decently remunerated: Sir Charles's salary of £37,500 is in line with a Permanent Secretary's in Whitehall, and so on down the line. Not all clerks have relished life at Westminster

Palace, however: there have been occasional defections.

Naturally Sir Charles's department has a vested interest in those often piddling-seeming points of order and other procedural matters which can so alienate the lay observer, or radio listener. They form a very serious and necessary part of the fabric of democracy, he insisted. "One has to have a framework, and you can't have a framework without rules. The Opposition has to make life as difficult as possible for the Government. If the rules make that possible, they will use them."

Quite. But some of us less steeped in Westminster might question the last assumption. Might the Opposition not occasionally, on merit, want to make life *easier* for the Government—and indeed thus gain greater public credit?

## A Mont Blanc among dealers

When in Switzerland the other day I called on Ernst Beyeler, one of the world's leading dealers in 20th-century art, in Basle, a pleasant city enriched by its pharmaceutical industries and its location on the border of France and Germany.

How reassuringly clean, orderly and prosperous Switzerland, land of my paternal great-grandfather, still seems to be! Herr Beyeler's premises in the picturesque Bäumeleingasse proved to be unexpectedly modest. He himself is a tall, handsomely gaunt, well-dressed

man of 60. I hovered, examining a fine show of recent Henry Moore bronzes and drawings, while he finished a long telephone call in the general office, amid the exhibits. Then he led me to a back room: a Mondrian or two on the wall, Giacometti bronzes here and there. He was a bit rushed—just back from Japan, off to New York shortly—but friendly enough, and explained in good English that his career had begun in the same building during the war.

While studying economics and art history at the university he had worked for a German Jewish immigrant selling old books and antiquities. The latter died in 1945 and the young Beyeler, whose father was a railway official, dropped his studies to carry on the business. In 1945 he took it over, and in 1951, after several shows of graphics and drawings, switched completely to art, mainly by 20th-century masters. It was, however, hard in those days to lure big buyers to provincial Basle, even from Zurich, let alone from abroad. So handsome, well researched catalogues became his ambassadors. In between he showed Swiss artists and graphics at modest prices.

Then came his breakthrough. In 1954 the notoriously curmudgeonly and shrewd collector and Pittsburgh steel magnate David Thompson saw Beyeler's mixed summer show. He bought nothing, but the following year chose a carving in marble by Alberto Giacometti, a fine casting of Rodin's Balzac, and several paintings. He paid half the total immediately, inviting »



**Wartski**  
ESTABLISHED 1865

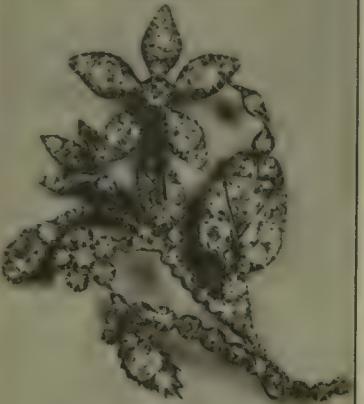
14 GRAFTON STREET  
LONDON W.1.  
Telephones: 01-493 1141-2-3

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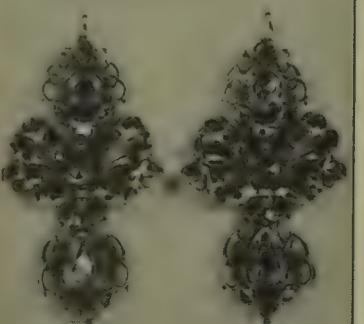
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  
JEWELS



A diamond set sunray hair ornament  
with detachable comb.



A diamond set flower spray



Diamond set gold pendant earrings,  
probably Spanish.



Ruby and diamond set plume and  
flower spray.  
Jewels shown actual size.

## ENCOUNTERS

Beyeler to Pittsburgh to collect the other half, either in cash or in pictures of equivalent value from his staggering collection. To cut an amusing saga short: after many long, wearying bargaining sessions over the following years Beyeler bought from Thompson *inter alia* 100 Klees, sold together as the cornerstone of the Düsseldorf state gallery; 80 Giacomettis, divided eventually between Zurich and Basle's public galleries; and some 250 high quality works by Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Miro, Léger, Schwitters. Financing such protracted deals required diplomacy and immense nerve. Beyeler had both, and an eye which impressed Thompson—and indeed other clients, dealers and museum officials.

While other big dealers expanded abroad in the euphoria of the 1960s, Beyeler kept his head. "Always I thought of leaving the small house, the small city, the small country. I always have remained, and finally it's not so bad," he told me, with a suitably understated laugh. "I have had very exciting and tempting propositions for branches and participations and so on. Finally I was very glad I didn't accept them. If one controls a little bit the quality of the catalogues, which has become so well known, and of the exhibitions, it would look different somewhere else, you know."

So he remains in the charming old premises, keeping quality up and overheads down. Helping himself and his wife there is a staff of just five. His reluctance to make more than a few trips abroad each year limits his number of big private clients, but he sells a lot to museums and other dealers. He has never, unlike many leading galleries, had an artist on contract. "I don't like to have to buy *all* of an artist's work. I prefer to select, but then you can't have the exclusivity... on the other hand, I don't have to bother with all the mediocre things every artist puts out"—and, naturally, he also misses



Ernst Beyeler: a link with Chicago.

the joys and miseries of nursing creative people through various crises. Nevertheless, he has visited and come to know many leading figures including Braque, Chagall, Tobey, Rothko, Albers and Picasso who (exceptionally) allowed him to select 26 from 100 paintings, then helped him to show 90 drawings on his 90th birthday.

Beyeler's participation was crucial to the launching of the annual Basle contemporary art fair 13 years ago. He does not greatly like fairs as a way of presenting art. But he admits many people find them a quick and informal way of looking at galleries from many countries; and, by general consent, Basle's remains the best. "Naturally it's also quite positive for our gallery, as we have about 40,000 people passing through. So all in all we have to go on," he said with a wry smile. As for the recession and competition from aggressive auction houses, other dealers gripe, while Beyeler finds his faith in the value of selection quality, the client's trust and long-term planning vindicated by a steady flow of business. Combining caution with a gambler's instinct for the big deal, he has remained at the top and kept the respect of his rivals.

## Look back in relief

Is it really 10 years since, as *The Times*'s correspondent in Brussels, I witnessed Britain's entry to the EEC on January 1, 1973? I had been translated thither from Bonn a year earlier, just in time to cover the hurling of a bag of printers' ink at Edward Heath, then Prime Minister, on his way through the Palais d'Egmont to sign the accession treaty.

What a strange world it was. From the relatively straightforward central issue of Chancellor Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik*, which did so much to redeem Germany's name and removed the Kremlin's bogey issue of West German "revanchism", I plunged into a baffling maze of acronyms, delphic abbreviations and economic jargon. Most of my colleagues (and opposition, in effect) had covered the long entry negotiations, and many had a better grip on

nitty-gritty details than EEC officials. There was nothing for it but to ask them, time and again at first, just what was Protocol 22; why the "most favoured nation" clause of Gatt seemed to be the opposite; what role comminuted oranges played in the EEC's Mediterranean policy; and what all those Euro-dollars were that seemed to be sloshing around.

Since the terms of Britain's membership were still a very live political issue at home, I was painfully conscious that any errors or solecisms I made when covering, say, a meeting of finance ministers (my least favourite event) would bring *The Times* into disrepute in Whitehall and Westminster. So much explanatory background had to be inserted into most reports—and the issue in dispute so often turned on some

arcane detail—that it was hard not to feel one was writing mainly for a tiny, involved minority of officials and MPs.

The EEC was not the only complex issue either. Nato headquarters being on the edge of Brussels, most correspondents were also expected to be expert on such matters as the mutual and balanced forces reduction negotiations (in Vienna) and allied attitudes to the Helsinki negotiations. Just in case the pace flagged, the Belgian government, ever a fragile entity thanks to the country's bitter linguistic divisions, fell at roughly 12-monthly intervals. A few days after arriving in Brussels a telex message informed me: "Your special supplement review of Belgian Press unreceived." I had done little more than glance through *Libre Belgique* and *Le Soir*. The Dutch-language Press remained a closed newspaper. How could I assess it all?

There were many compensations. The quality of my colleagues, drawn largely from the EEC member States, was very high, and a remarkable tradition of mutual help had evolved. When covering one of those endless ministerial meetings on, say, whether the maximum permitted axle weight of lorries should be increased (a typical EEC matter: boring-sounding, but highly important), French journalists would tell a huddle of us from other countries what their minister or spokesman had said. We would reciprocate, and so on until, duly aiming off for exaggerated claims and national prejudices, one would cobble together an account of negotiations, usually surprisingly accurate, and telephone it over to Printing House Square, changing and updating as the evening wore on.

Equally, within the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and the many diplomatic missions to the EEC, to Nato and to Belgium, there were many intelligent and entertaining people of a dozen nationalities. As a journalist one could move in a wholly unstratified way from, say, the admirable luncheon table of Sir Christopher (later Lord) Soames, the senior British commissioner, to *moules marinières* in one of Brussels' marvellous restaurants with a refreshingly indiscreet Dutch diplomat from Nato headquarters. Successive ministers from Conservative and Labour governments came and went frequently, with their aides; and the UK Permanent Representation to the EEC (UKrep) was a mini Whitehall of high calibre: rich terrain for useful contacts.

If the food was delicious, especially the game, so was the reality of living for three years so near the heart of Europe. What a block in terms of time, money and sheer effort the Channel is. I never had any doubts that, in an age of superpowers, Britain must make common cause with her European neighbours, however mistaken much of the CAP might be. But I must admit that when living on that side of the water I had a much stronger sense of being part of an increasingly integrated western Europe—and benefiting from it.

# Pick of the class of 60

by Julian Critchley

Lynda Chalker is at present in the Department of Transport. Her colleagues in the House of Commons expect her one day to achieve high office in a Conservative government.

I was once asked by an Atlanta matron, whose hair was as blue as her eyes, what it was like having a woman leader. I said it was like being at home all day. Such wry defensiveness typifies the approach of the male MP to his colleagues of the opposite sex. Women MPs have always been a tiny minority in what is otherwise a gentlemen's club (Disraeli: "The only regular attenders at the House of Commons are married men") and, until the arrival upon the scene of Margaret Thatcher, they played the part either of nanny (Eleanor Rathbone) or scold (Nancy Astor). Lynda Chalker fits neither category.

Although recently married to Clive Landa, Lynda Chalker has retained the name by which she became well known, that of her first husband, Eric Chalker. She was originally Lynda Bates, born in 1942 in Hitchin, the daughter of a solicitor. Lynda Bates, Eric Chalker and Clive Landa all came to prominence in the early 60s as leading Young Conservatives, members of what was once the largest political youth movement in "the free world", a ladder of opportunity which Lord Woolton let down into the tennis-playing suburbs and up which climbed the politically ambitious. Lynda was vice-chairman of the London Young Conservatives, Eric Chalker, chairman, while the young Clive Landa's t-shirted appearances at Brighton and Blackpool stole the Party Conference show. Eric and Clive have disappeared into computers; Lynda Bates/Chalker/Landa has proceeded into office.

Lynda Chalker entered the Commons as Conservative MP for Wallasey in Cheshire in February, 1974, succeeding Ernest Marples. She was the first divorcee to have been chosen as a Conservative candidate, evidence that the marital misfortunes of women counted for as little as those of men for the middle class who make up the Tory committees of selection. Besides, the burgers of Wallasey knew that they were on to a good thing. Her reputation had preceded her: she was the pick of the crop, a girl who combined competence with femininity and had earned the good opinion of her peers.

Lynda Bates went from primary school to Roedean where she was for a term head girl. A Tory MP told me that at that time she was known as "bossy Bates", and I can see her as the sort of managing schoolgirl about whom Sir John Betjeman might have enthused. She left Roedean for Heidelberg, where she spent 10 months learning statistics and perfecting her German. She happened to be in Berlin on August 13, 1961, a fact which did not deter Herr



Ulbricht from building the Berlin Wall. Later she read mathematics at London University and sat her finals for the Institute of Statisticians. The hours of daylight she spent working either for Kodak or for Unilever, where she stayed six years; the hours of darkness she spent with the Young Conservatives.

Having entered the House in February, 1974, after Ted Heath had been ambushed by Joe Gormley, it was plain that Lynda Chalker would not be permitted to languish long upon the back benches, that refuge for the bright and the bloody. Women in the Tory Party are always liable for promotion, as are the Welsh and the Scots, there being so few of any of them. Those who are discriminated against are usually Englishmen who represent seats in the southern half of the kingdom. But Lynda was different; she did not stand in need of the twin boosters of sex or geography. We knew that it would not be long before she was taken from us.

Mrs Thatcher, on becoming Prime Minister in May, 1979, appointed Lynda Chalker to the Department of Health and Social Security as Parliamentary Secretary. She was given a black Princess, a red box and an office in a shabby, modern building in the Elephant and Castle. She was also in

receipt of a flood of constituency letters from her colleagues, the bulk of whose postbag consists of pleas for bigger and better pensions or benefits. It was Lynda's task to answer them all.

Lynda Chalker belongs to the moderate wing of the Conservative Party. She has described herself as "not wringing wet but damp", and with regard to all that has happened since May, 1979, she emphasizes the importance of the need to carry people with you. She has defended, together with the other Ministers in the department, the pattern of social spending against the threatened depredations of the Treasury. "I was successful in pointing out the political effect of some of their wilder proposals."

People beyond the confines of Conservative Party politics may find it hard to understand, or to sympathize with, the disputes between Tory "wets" and "dries", but the battle between those who, in order to advance the counter-revolution, would "roll back the frontiers of the State", and others who are eager to defend what they see to be the interventionist traditions of Conservatism, has waged fiercely both before and behind the scenes. Lynda Chalker is of the class of 60, a period when Conservatism took its intellectual tone from Harold Macmillan, "Rab" Butler, and

Iain Macleod: she cannot be described, as John Nott has described himself (and Mrs Thatcher), as a 19th-century Liberal. The protection of the old, the poor and the disadvantaged is the task of the Department of Health and Social Security, and as a junior Minister in that department she has been in the front line.

In March, 1982, Mrs Thatcher shifted Mrs Chalker sideways to the Department of Transport, where she is faced with the problem of deciding the priorities between one vociferous lobby and the next, whether it be the road-builder, the road-user, or the environmentalist, between the frequently conflicting aims of which she is called upon to arbitrate. The good news to have come out of the Department of Transport this year has been the announcement that some 220 towns and villages will benefit from by-passes to be built over the next four to five years, news not altogether unconnected with the decision to permit 38 tonne lorries to use Britain's roads. She played a major part in steering the Transport Act (1982) through the House, a measure which includes the immobilization, albeit on a limited and experimental basis, of cars by the affixing of wheel-clamp devices.

Junior office can seem to the occupant as the worst of all worlds. The work-load is heavy, and often boring. There is a touch of prestige but little of the pleasure that can belong to the *franc-tireurs* of the back benches. Junior Ministers have nothing to live for, save promotion. Mrs Chalker is a member of the Amesbury Group, a semi-unofficial dining club founded by Kenneth Clarke, the Minister of Health. The club is for run-of-the-mill Ministers (and Whips) of the moderate tendency, who dine downstairs once a month in order to pass on their anxieties to the party Whips. Junior Ministers who organized in such a way under Harold Wilson earned a Prime Ministerial rebuke; so far, Mrs Thatcher has taken no action.

With a little bit of luck Lynda Chalker may end up in the Cabinet, possibly in the post she would prefer, that of Secretary of State for Health and Social Security. She wishes to make government more efficient, to bring technology to the Civil Service and to encourage exchanges between industry and the bureaucracy. She is a popular person, good at her boxes and at the box. Old Fred Woolton has done us all proud.

Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot.

# The realities of death

by Dr James Bevan

Death comes to us all, but most of us prefer not to think about it until it happens to someone we love, or until we feel threatened by it ourselves. Certainly in this country it is not a subject for general conversation. Nonetheless some thought and a little preparation can ease the burden, and this feature aims to help with the emotional, practical and legal problems that inevitably accompany death. On page 27 Morris Maddocks, Bishop of Selby, considers the importance of religious beliefs.

Death is a word we prefer to avoid. Our friends "pass on", "pass over" or "go ahead". Death, though inevitable, is seldom discussed. Yet during the past 50 years, largely thanks to the cinema and television, we have become used to the visual impact of dramatic and violent death—without its real pain. This may have given us a sophisticated feeling that we can cope with it, but we are often impotent when suddenly faced with it as a reality. We are then grateful for the professionals: the nurses and doctors, police and ambulance men who protect us, and for the priests and physicians, lawyers and undertakers who can help us to cope with the problems and emotions caused by a death.

It is impossible to know what a person feels as death occurs. Those who recover after a cardiac arrest, or are involved in accidents and lose consciousness, may say that they felt calm at the immediate expectation of death, or astonished or even angry that they were about to die. Pain is seldom a major factor, unless there is an interval between the event and realization that it is potentially fatal. A prolonged terminal illness may give the victim an opportunity to expect death, but not often to know just when it is going to happen. Unconsciousness usually clouds the moment of death itself. Some people do, however, become aware that death is about to occur and may ask for family, friends or priest so a last farewell can be made—a highly emotional moment for the family, but potentially satisfying to the patient as a completion of life.

I feel that the truth must be told if I am asked by a patient whether he is dying. The family often ask for their relative to remain in ignorance, but a dying person must be given the chance to adjust gradually to changed expectations and to decide for himself what to do. Once the moment of truth has been faced, the need to talk about it again seldom arises directly, though oblique references may be made. The fact that everyone is aware means that they can all help. Discovering the truth alone, from a careless remark or blank denial, so obviously a lie, leaves a desolate person unable to reach out for aid.

Knowledge that death is a reality may produce a flood of questions: "When?" "In what way?" "Is there nothing to be done?" "Can anyone else help?" "What about faith healers, nature and other fringe medicine

cures?" The physician, in the hospital or at home, can help unravel the fears of what lies ahead, mixing reassurance with realism. Anxiety about possible suffering and pain often predominates. Some people never ask the direct question about death. Most doctors will respect this and not intrude with forthright statements. A silent agreement between patient and doctor means the unmentionable is understood.

After the first few days of disbelief and fear, a realization that nothing has changed may occur. The odd ache or pain is the same as before, the same medicines work as well and an empty expectation of something dreadful about to happen disappears. For many people a time of relative tranquillity may follow. A common satisfaction for many people is to leave their affairs in order for the family. It is as important to plan the day or week ahead to avoid boredom when dying as when retiring.

About 4,000 people commit suicide every year in England and Wales, a figure which constitutes nearly 20 per cent of all those dying a violent death but less than 1 per cent of the total number of deaths overall. However, nearly one in eight of those who die between the ages of 25 and 29 do so by killing themselves. Every week our hospitals cope with almost 2,000 cases of attempted suicide by poisoning. A large number of attempted suicides are a cry for help from the inadequate or hysterical who do not intend to die but merely to dramatize their desperate situation. Some of these "cries" fail and death occurs. There has been a steady decline in the number of suicides in the past 50 years, and the United Kingdom has one of the lowest rates in the Western world, about eight per 100,000 of the population each year. This is 50 per cent lower than the US rate and a fifth of Hungary's. It is a way of dying that may be prevented by adequate care and counselling, as has been seen by the success of the Samaritans.

Voluntary euthanasia is murder with the agreement of the victim. Euthanasia without the victim's consent is murder. Many doctors will have been asked by their patients to "help" them die, a request which needs an understanding answer. Most people fear above all a lingering, painful death, or years of decrepit imbecility following an accident, illness or the onset of senility, thus becoming a burden to family or State. Commonly the doctor's reply



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PETER KNOCK

will be that direct intervention is not only wrong but medically difficult, as few doctors are sufficiently experienced toxicologists to ensure they can kill. But doctors are under no legal or moral compulsion to take exceptional steps to keep a dying patient alive. The basis of treatment in such a situation is to maintain comfort even if this shortens life—it is better to sleep away a life, helped by morphine, even if pneumonia intervenes, than to endure prolonged pain.

Even experienced nurses may have difficulty in knowing just when someone has died. The gradual, peaceful slowing of breathing and the almost imperceptible pulse fluctuating in intensity mean that the moment of death may be missed as the coma of dying becomes the stillness of death. In some people the heart stops beating—the heart attack—bringing death within a frightening, gurgling minute or two; this is much more horrific to the witness than the victim. Fortunately most people dying under medical care do not know when it will occur, and the moment of death is peaceful and quiet.

Relatives are often concerned about the "death rattle", which in reality is not necessarily a sign of immediate death. Anyone who is weak and semi-conscious or in coma will have problems in coughing up the normal salivary and lung secretions. These flow to the back of the throat when the patient is lying on his back. Normal breathing will agitate them, producing a rattling

noise not unlike that heard in the throat of a sleeping child with a cold. The death rattle was more frequently heard when pneumonia—"the old man's friend"—or tuberculosis were common respiratory causes of death with the patient nursed lying on his back and not, as in the modern practice, on one side allowing secretions to drain out of the mouth.

## Grieving

Grief usually follows a pattern of physical and psychological changes, and customs for mourning have developed over thousands of years in most societies in an attempt to help the widow. In the severest forms—scarcely help!—the widow used to undergo a ritual "suicide", being cremated (known as "suttee" by the Hindus in India) or buried with her husband. In Bali widows were expected to commit suicide, and similar attitudes prevailed among the Maoris in New Zealand. In Dahomey all the royal wives poisoned themselves on the death of the king. In some African tribes the widow was ostracized and forced to live alone in a hut on the edge of the village, appearing only at night to collect food from relatives. Among the ancient Jews the widow married her husband's eldest surviving brother, who cared for her and her children. In more recent history a period of isolation after the funeral was recognized as a necessary part of the mourning process. In medieval

Italy this was known as "quarantina", 40 days of mourning, during which the widow remained in her husband's home before moving to a dower house.

In this country it is only in the past few decades that the ritual of mourning has relaxed, leaving little to take its place. The conventions of dark clothing, black arm bands and veils for women could be a considerable help in identifying those who needed particular support and understanding. The subdued voice, the gentle inquiry and careful choice of words in talking about the deceased made it easier for mourners to discuss the illness and death. Jewish families still observe the custom—Shivah—of a ritual seven days of prayers with mourners spending much of the time talking to visitors about the dead person.

The pattern of grieving has been described by Dr C. M. Parkes in his excellent research on bereavement. First, there has to be an acceptance that death has occurred, after the "Oh, no!—it can't have happened" that so commonly follows a sudden death. It is often a period of numbness: the bereaved seems calm and controlled, continuing to cope in a way that amazes family and friends. Next the realization that death has occurred produces sensations of fear, restlessness and anxiety, and moments of despair with uncontrollable crying. Then there is an urge to find the lost one, to prove that he or she is alive despite the knowledge of death. This may involve a constant revisiting of favourite places in the home, or the touching of familiar objects of clothing. Such behaviour may concern other relatives, but attempts to calm the bereaved can produce anger on top of feelings of guilt for not having prevented the death.

As the phase of guilt and anger passes, the dull remorseless feeling of depression creeps in, leaving an inability to cope and a desire to withdraw from friends and family during the severest moments of anguish. It is now that a widow—to take her case, as statistically women are more likely to be bereaved—may feel that her lost husband is sometimes present in the same room, and even experience hallucinations, perhaps of seeing him sitting in his favourite chair, or even of the warmth of his body next to her in bed. The feeling of reality is sometimes so great that she will start to speak to him. This can distress others, but is not an indication of mental instability. Vivid dreams can also be a cause for worry.

The phase of emotional numbness usually lasts a few hours or days. Even if the death was expected and was, to a certain extent, a relief, the feeling of disbelief is a normal reaction. As the numbness disappears, pangs of grief, akin to a severe physical pain or shock, sweep in like waves thundering up a beach, obliterating everything. Tears stream and the physical effort of sobbing produces a calmness lasting a short while before the onslaught of the next wave. In this phase, when the bereaved will usually be unable to make

decisions or become involved in practical arrangements, the family and friends can help with physical and emotional reassurance.

As the waves of grief become less violent and frequent, the restless time of pining starts. Pining is a mixture of loneliness and yet wishing to be alone to think about the dead person, combined with physical restlessness during the period of searching for him. The loneliness stems in part from the breaking of the habits of living together. No longer is it necessary to do certain things. During this stage of restless anxiety there may be a conscious avoidance of situations likely to accentuate grief, like meeting a husband's business colleagues or visiting familiar places.

Many widows are horrified to find that they cannot remember exactly how their husband looked. It is part of nature's protection from the full onslaught of despair. Yet during moments of relative relaxation, the dead person's face may appear vividly, as in an hallucination.

The irritability that so frequently distresses friends and family is really a feature of the depression that follows the restless stage of grieving. These emotions blur into each other, so a period of relatively inactive depression may be followed by a day or two of restlessness, with irritability easily turning to anger: two sides of the same coin of grief in which the bereaved's previous personality may decide which is most evident. It is easier to help someone who is passively depressed, mourning quietly and prepared to share her tears and grief, than to sustain someone whose irritability easily flares to anger and apparently irrational rage. Depression is such a natural reaction to death that people forget that the other phases are as relevant, even if shorter.

The nervous system controls so many of the body's functions that grief can produce many psychosomatic manifestations: loss of vitality, dull skin, drab hair, headaches, indigestion and pain in joints. Sleep patterns change, with frequent waking during the night and deep sleep in the morning. Unexplained palpitations, irregularity of the heart with rapid pulse, may occur, and there is an increased medical expectation of death from heart attacks. The "broken heart" of grief, long recognized by writers, is real and contributes to the higher death rate of widows and widowers in the first year of bereavement.

Sometimes the stress of mourning exacerbates the period of agitation, producing aimless activity (like repeated tidying of the house), sweating accompanied by trembling, and even moments of panic. These symptoms are part of the "fear" reaction of the body, produced through the automatic nervous system, due to excess of the hormone adrenalin. This dampens the appetite and leads to loss of weight.

As time passes, and perhaps with the help of prescribed tranquillizing or antidepressant drugs, the depth of the

depression lifts and physical symptoms lessen, and there is a reawakening of interest in life. It is now, after perhaps a few months, that customs like a memorial service or the setting of a gravestone may mark a returning ability to cope with life.

The loss of a family member means a readjustment of the relationships of surviving members. The widow will recognize that she has lost not only her husband but also her friend, financial adviser, household electrician, lover, protector, resident humorist, etc. The family will replace some of these roles and she herself will become more competent in others, basing herself on her husband's values and often becoming involved in his old interests. This continuation of his life can be an immense help in re-establishing herself in society. At the same time she may start things for which previously she had lacked time. This "coming out" of mourning needs to be met by friends and family in a reassuring manner to re-instil confidence in someone who may feel socially "maimed" by her husband's death. At this stage of rekindled interest in life, the younger widow may feel a stirring of sexual alertness. This can be alarming if it is not recognized as a normal, healthy sign of recovery from grief. It does not necessarily have to be satisfied, or mean that her husband has been forgotten. Grief is always present for someone truly loved and lost.

Bereavement may particularly adversely affect those who already have problems. Physical illnesses, such as asthma and colitis, may be aggravated and those with a previous history of mental breakdown, depression or alcoholism risk suffering a further episode. Awareness of this will enable family and doctor to start help early with appropriate drugs and counselling. Alertness to increasing feelings of guilt, hypochondriasis with multitudes of symptoms, and to the mention of suicide can often avert disaster. Unfortunately the death of the stronger member of a marriage removes constant, loving support from the weaker, and is difficult to replace.

Reactions to grief depend on personality, the strength of the love and the unexpectedness of the death as well as on previous ability to cope with crises, religious convictions and family support. Sometimes an unhappy marriage produces such guilt that no mention of failings in the dead person can be made: he is "sanctified" as a perfect husband. Widowers often cope better than widows, perhaps because they have outside supports like a job, while a widow's life has centred around her husband. More widows require psychiatric help than widowers.

Surprisingly, perhaps the best help for bereavement is anticipation of it. Death may occur unexpectedly, but often a warning illness, like a minor stroke or heart attack, will give a chance to discuss death and its consequences, thus helping a couple to realize how dependent they are on each other and how each can help the other

## Useful addresses

The following organizations can provide help in particular circumstances:

### CRUSE

(The national organization for the widowed and their children.)  
Cruse House, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR  
(tel 01-940 4818/9047).

### National Association of Widows

Stafford District Voluntary Service Centre, Chell Road, Stafford ST16 2QA.

### The Compassionate Friends

2 Norden Road, Blandford, Dorset DT11 7LT  
(tel 0258 52760).

### Family Welfare Association

501 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AU  
(tel 01-254 6251).

For local branches see your telephone directory

### Age Concern

Bernard Sunley House, 60 Pitcairn Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL  
(tel 01-640 5431).

For local branches see your telephone directory

### Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths

4 Grosvenor Place, London SW1 7HD  
(tel 01-235 1721).

### The Stillbirth and Perinatal Death Association

37 Christchurch Hill, London NW3 1JY  
(tel 01-794 4601).

### HM Inspector of Anatomy

Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6BY or Scottish Home and Health Department, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DE (01-636 6811 or 01-407 5522 out of hours when death occurs).

*Wills and Probate (England and Wales)* and *What to do when someone Dies* obtainable from the Consumers' Association, Caxton Hall, Hertford, SG13 7LZ and booksellers at £3.95 each or £6.90 in one volume.

to face his or her own death. To do so helps the surviving partner to know what the spouse would like done. This can give grieving a feeling of a mission to carry out joint decisions.

More often grief can be helped by the successful caring for and nursing of a dying partner. For it to be shared by the patient, he must know the diagnosis and eventual outcome of his illness. This can establish a new dimension to loving which sustains the survivor. If secrecy about the diagnosis has prevented the closeness at death that truth can provide it is harder to help.

Sometimes there is no close relative who is young and fit enough to help at a time of grief and physical need. It is then that the Welfare State can show its strength through a combination of local authority social services and charitable organizations to give aid to the bereaved who lack family support. The family doctor and perhaps a priest will help, and in recent years they have been reinforced by such organizations ➤

# The realities of death

as the National Association of Widows and CRUSE, which is run by widows for widows, giving advice enriched by personal experience.

Much depends on the acceptance of help by the mourner. Those who try to help should remember that for the widow the most important person is

the one who is dead. To talk about her husband gives an opportunity for tears, to ask about his interests shows a friendship to them both and maintains his memory as fresh and glowing. Oblique criticism is sometimes enjoyed, bringing a smile through tears. Companionship in grief is what is needed, and often it is old friends and neighbours who can do most to bridge the gap between the isolation of bereavement and the outside world.

## Dealing with the practicalities



### Legal

It is not essential to ask a solicitor to draw up a will, but he can advise *inter alia* on tax laws and clear phrasing. Instructions should cover not only what is to be done with property, money and so on, but also what kind of funeral, burial or cremation is wanted and the appointment of executors. These are often relatives or friends, usually including the solicitor, and they are responsible for carrying out the directions in the will. They own the property of the deceased and are responsible for looking after it until probate has been granted. Probate is the legal approval that the will is acceptable in law, and that the affairs of the dead person are in order so that debts can be paid and the bequests in the will complied with. An executor or, more normally, the solicitor is responsible for informing the bank (to stop cheques being paid), the source of any pension, telephone service and other public utilities that the person has died. A season ticket may produce a refund if returned to the appropriate authority with a letter of explanation.

Those who benefit most from the will usually receive an interim payment, as the executors have to ensure there is sufficient money available to pay outstanding bills received within a year of the death, funeral and legal expenses and specific bequests. Solicitors can usually estimate the value of property, shares and money and so can make

some payment to the widow for normal living expenses. Nonetheless it is advisable for the widow to talk to her bank manager, who may provide an overdraft until probate is granted.

### Death at home, hospital or hospice

To die at home is a widely shared ambition. But many people die unexpectedly, following an accident, operation, or during the course of treatment in hospital intended to save them. Some medical problems and treatments cannot be coped with at home. If pain control, for example, becomes too difficult, a hospice may be the answer.

### Spare-part surgery and use of bodies after death

Many are glad to feel that their bodies may still be of some use after death, and people have long been able to leave their bodies to medical schools for dissection. Although executors are under no legal obligation to carry out this wish, they usually do. It is no longer possible to give your body to a particular hospital but, if asked previously, the local medical school or HM Inspector of Anatomy will send the appropriate forms to your executors after your death. There is no form filling to be done earlier. Sometimes, perhaps because of injury, surgery or illness, a body is not acceptable; but usually the Inspector of Anatomy will arrange for it to be sent to the medical school where the need is greatest.

Instructions should cover disposal of your body after dissection.

In this era of transplanted organs the use of healthy kidneys, corneas (part of the eye) and even hearts is increasing. There is the prospect of using other organs. Surgeons and their patients need a supply of these healthy "spare parts" from those suddenly dying or being killed. Corneal grafting has been undertaken successfully for many years. But as the part has to be removed within a few hours of death, there must be no problems about deciding when a person is actually dead.

There has been much debate latterly about the moment of death, as the body may still function with the heart beating, blood flowing and kidneys working even if there is no sign of brain activity. The concept of brain death is relatively new but has become necessary because of the skill of doctors using life-support machines to maintain apparent "life". The point of death is a decision reached after exhaustive checks, and following a strict code of medical practice and independent opinions. Once death has been agreed, organs may be removed for transplantation giving the hope of health and prolonged life to someone else.

Permission to transplant has to be obtained from the relatives and executors, if they are known. This is much easier if the patient has made his wishes clear by signing a donor card, usually available from doctors or chemists, and carries the card at all times.

### Certification of death

When someone dies, death has to be certified by a medically qualified practitioner. If the doctor is certain of the cause of death, usually because he has been looking after the person, he will issue a certificate stating the cause or causes. If, however, the doctor is uncertain why the person has died—as is common in sudden, unexpected death—he will report the case to a coroner. The death may be due to violence, accidental or otherwise; or to a disease acquired through work, as with asbestos workers. The coroner must decide the cause of death and may order a post-mortem examination. The family cannot prevent this; but few people realize how compassionately the coroner and his officer (usually a policeman in civilian clothes) handle the inquiry. Often a certificate is given without a post-mortem and frequently the coroner may tell the attending doctor that he can issue a certificate himself. However, when someone else may have contributed to the death, as in a car crash or a case of industrial poisoning, a public inquest will be held. This is to ensure that evidence of responsibility can be produced and the coroner can decide who is to blame.

The Notification of Death Form (or "death certificate") must be taken to the local Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages within five days. The bearer, usually a close relative, will have been given the Notice to Informant, with a list of the questions to be asked

### The cost of death

These are the typical funeral expenses of a professional person dying in London.

Coffin	£110-£220
Bearers	£175
Removal of body	£40
Hearse	£40
Cremation*	£60-£80
Two doctors for cremation	£35-£40
Church†	£25
Additional cars (each)	£30-£40
Flowers in church	£30-£50
Purchase of burial plot	£50-£700
Raised tablet stone	£125-£150
Headstone	£250-£300
National press announcement	£30-£40
The funeral grant is £30	

\*includes use of chapel, minister, organist and flowers.

†Excludes organist (£20-£30)

by the registrar. It is essential to have the information ready beforehand—for example, the place of birth of the deceased. The registrar will then issue the standard Death Certificate, a record of which is kept at Somerset House and which is required by solicitors and insurance companies. A fee is payable, and it is advisable to ask for at least one extra copy.

The registrar will also issue a Disposal Certificate which authorizes the undertaker to bury or cremate; a Certificate of Registration of the death (Form BD8) which is used for claiming the Widow's Benefit and Death Grant and also, if requested, a further special certificate for claiming insurance on the life of a relative who has been insured by another member of the family.

It is possible to make an appointment to see the registrar, but normally you go to the office in the district where the person died and wait until the registrar is free. Usually the solicitor will help to claim insurances, death grants, etc if he is sent the Death Certificate, special certificate and Form BD8. The undertaker will need the Disposal Certificate. The system in Scotland is slightly different.

If a cremation is being arranged, the doctor who signed the Notification of Death Form will talk to another, independent doctor, who must examine the body to establish that its appearance is compatible with the fatal illness. This is to ensure that nothing illegal has taken place. Both doctors complete a Cremation Form. The executor, or next of kin, has to complete a separate Application for Cremation form which must be countersigned by a householder who knows him. The cremation can then be authorized by a specially appointed medical referee, who on rare occasions may make further inquiries about the cause of death. In the event of the coroner issuing the certificate the referee will accept his opinion without the need for a second doctor.

### Undertakers

Despite the many jokes made about funeral directors (as they like to be called) most people are grateful for their sympathy and help. Their advice

on details can often prevent family arguments such as decisions about flowers and music, even the announcement in local and national newspapers, and the transport of relatives and friends are part of their service. It is reasonable to discuss with them how to avoid unnecessary expense.

In larger cities it is often impossible to find room in the local burial ground, but most local authorities will have land available within reasonable distance. In country districts the local church may have space in the graveyard for parishioners, particularly if they have been regular churchgoers. But land is scarce and making arrangements at short notice may prove difficult. Some people make plans before they die and leave instructions with their solicitor.

The undertaker will make arrangements for the burial or cremation, paying all the fees, so his final bill will include these as well as his expenses. If arrangements have been made, such as the purchase of a funeral plot, or interment is to take place in a family vault or grave, time must be allowed for it to be prepared or opened. Unless burial is to be in a church graveyard, there is no need for a religious service at either a funeral or a cremation. The form of service and choice of music can be decided by the family—or be chosen previously by the person who has died. At a cremation many families prefer to leave the chapel before the coffin is moved into the cremating room.

Decisions about headstones and grave furniture are usually left for some weeks. Some people will decide that the crematorium, often in a beautiful garden, is suitable for scattering ashes, while others will prefer some favourite spot, or to keep them in an urn. Those following other faiths, like orthodox Jews or Muslims, will have their own people skilled in the care of their dead.

As in all professions, there are a few funeral directors who seem to take advantage of a vulnerable time in a family's life. Your solicitor should be able to resolve the problem without increasing the distress. It is always advisable to ask for the estimated cost of funeral arrangements and get the solicitor's or executor's approval before agreeing to it with the funeral director.

#### Supportive agencies

Some people may have to rely on the Social Service Department of their local council. The working relationship between family doctors and social workers is usually good. An elderly person facing the death of a spouse alone is often unable to cope with the complexities of funeral arrangements and legal requirements on top of the daily shopping, cooking and other tasks. A visit from a social worker, followed by a meals-on-wheels service, can bring a glimmer of hope to grief-stricken misery. There are many voluntary organizations which will be alerted by the social worker. Some help those people covered by their own speciality,

such as fatal muscular disorders.

The Welfare State provides a Death Grant—a small sum intended to pay for the basic cost of a simple funeral, but nowadays totally inadequate. A Widow's Allowance is paid for six months, after which it becomes a

Widow's Pension. This may be increased if earnings-related National Insurance has been paid. A detailed claim must be made on form BW1, obtainable from the local Social Security office. Most solicitors will help with these claims.

## Preparing for the end



There is evidence that we are beginning to face the reality of death. One of the healthiest recent developments has been the emergence and spread of the hospice movement. Originally a hospice, meaning a "a place of hospitality", was a resting place for those who went on pilgrimages. Today a hospice offers hospitality to those nearing the end of life's pilgrimage. There are now more than 30 hospices in this country, with many more in preparation. Largely Christian-inspired—Dame Cicely Saunders has played a major role over the last 30 years—the movement's positive approach to terminally ill patients has brought a response from people of all persuasions.

The staff of the hospice set out to transform life in its terminal stages from an ebbing existence into real living. Patients receive the unhurried attention they need, enjoy a real relationship with those caring for them, and come to see life and death with compassionate realism. The essential ethos of the hospice is that the patient is a whole personality. For instance, pain control is practised on the physical level, but pain on other planes is also alleviated.

This secret of the treatment—looking at a patient as a whole—reflects the life and work of the staff. They form a close-knit team who pray and share together, both among themselves and with the patients and their families.

A special feature of the treatment is the way families are led to share the patient's final days and weeks of life on this earth. They are welcomed and integrated into the community. The staff not only listen to them and their needs,

but also assist their relationship with their dear ones from the first, right to the end and beyond, for special care is given during the period of (essential) grief. They are led to understand that the dying see through all unreality and that any mask which hid the truth and prevented a full relationship (especially in the case of husband and wife) is now removed. It is a process that inevitably brings pain but it is handled within the total community relationships in an atmosphere of prayer and caring. It is shared, seen through and eventually viewed as heralding the birth of a new and even more fruitful relationship and attitude to life. The hospice movement has taught us not only how to die well but to live fully, without fear.

Most religious people believe in life after death in some form or another. The Greeks believed in the survival of the soul, and thought it best to have their fare ready for the ferryman of Orcus to take them across the Styx. Christians believe in the resurrection of the body, a spiritual body, like the risen Christ's, which was not subject to restrictions of time and space and was recognizable. For Christians this "last" journey is begun when we are baptized into the death of Christ and raised with him in his resurrection. For a Christian life always follows death: Christ rose again from the dead and is now alive for ever more. Because he lives eternally, Christians who through baptism are alive in him now will continue to share that experience in the life of the world to come. Death is only a transition, a horizon that has to be crossed into the fuller life.

The best preparation for death is

therefore deemed by Christians to be the nourishment of the spiritual faculty in this life. This faculty is brought into focus in the hospice type of therapy, though waiting to exercise it until then is leaving things a little late. The whole of life should be used as the preparation, and the spiritual faculty should be exercised in music, art, poetry and the practice of religion throughout life.

The other great religions also believe in life after death. In Judaism, the cradle of Christianity, the belief has undergone development. The belief of the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection, seems to have disappeared after the fall of the Temple (AD 70). The Pharisees held the opposite view, and the Talmud certainly gave great importance to the resurrection of the dead. In the orthodox Jewish Daily Prayer Book of today we find the sentence: "I believe with perfect faith that there will be a resurrection of the dead at the time when it shall please the Creator."

Islam has always encouraged its followers to be certain of life after death. The second great tenet of the Qur'an is the doctrine of the Last Judgment, which basically declares that after death men will be restored to life to appear before God, and will be assigned to Paradise or Hell according to whether they have done good or evil. Death also happens at a stated time: "When their time comes they cannot put it off an hour, nor can they bring it on." The angel of death then takes charge of the soul until the resurrection, though in fact the interval seems like only one day.

A characteristic of the Indian religions is their belief in rebirth (reincarnation or transmigration). This is explained by their belief that all things move round in cycles of birth, death and rebirth, the soul being immortal and indestructible. In Hinduism there is a system of reward in the next life for good deeds (the doctrine of Karma).

The Sikhs have similar views on rebirth, but they insist on the unity of God in contrast to some of the pantheistic and polytheistic Hindu beliefs. For them liberation will come by overcoming ignorance and worldly attachment and obeying the will of God.

Buddhist belief in rebirth is more complex than Hindu because of its negative teaching about the soul (the Buddha taught that the body is "not-soul") and the indefinable state of Nirvana. Nirvana means literally outblown, calmed, extinguished. First used of a lamp or a fire, it is then used of the extinguishing of the flame of life and fires of passion. Nirvana ends suffering, brings security, gives joy.

The great religions all show that attitudes to death are conditioned by attitudes to life, though few of us will have the faith of that great Christian pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer who, just before he was executed by the Gestapo, declared "Death is the supreme festival on the road to freedom"; or of St Paul, who so frequently faced death and declared: "To me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." ◎

# Docklands rail link

by Tony Aldous

By 1987 modern, sophisticated trams will be running through London's Docklands. They will provide a fast, efficient service and attract industry to this growing area.

Trams first ran in London on May 2, 1870, horse-drawn on a line from Brixton to Kennington; from 1901 onwards they were progressively electrified; after the Second World War they were phased out in favour of buses, and the last tram ran from Woolwich to New Cross in the early hours of July 6, 1952. Yet by 1987 something like a tram is likely to be running along London's Mile End Road.

In London the existence of an extensive and well integrated Underground network until recently seemed to offer little scope for light-rail, tram-type rapid transit systems. Two things changed this: the need to redevelop London's redundant docklands, and the fact that most conventional extensions of the Underground are for the present clearly beyond London's limits and the nation's resources. "But light rail," points out Howard Potter, transport planner for the London Docklands Development Corporation, "covers a wide spectrum of systems and technologies. New generation trams are just one option being examined."

In 1981 the newly formed LDDC faced a dilemma. Its members and officials knew that one of the besetting weaknesses of the area—divided by a looping Thames—was lack of reliable public transport; but the last quoted figure for extending the Jubilee Line from Charing Cross through Docklands to Thamesmead, the public transport spine on which Docklands development strategies had long rested, was approaching £500 million.

So Reg Ward, the LDDC's chief executive, began looking at other solutions. An express bus was certainly among the cheapest, but a good service would have depended on a series of road improvements, notably the Docklands northern relief road, which could not be completed before 1990. Slightly to his surprise Ward found, after going into the matter with London Transport's railway development director Bob Dorey, that a rapid transit system largely using the existing rights of way could be in operation three years earlier than that.

The LDDC's role in securing government approval was crucial. It commissioned London Transport to work out a scheme; it, the GLC, and the Departments of Transport, Environment and Trade took part in a joint evaluation of various options and the representatives of those bodies jointly proposed to the Government the scheme to which Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine gave a public blessing at the Conservative Party Conference this autumn. The

recommendation was that the best value for money came not from express buses nor from either a north-south or an east-west light rail line alone, but from a combination of north-south and east-west lines. The cost is £65 million to early 1982 prices.

Both Bob Dorey and LTE's managing director (railways), Dr Tony Ridley, were determined not to be put in a position where critics could say: "The money you, London Transport, are spending on this new-fangled Docklands Railway should have gone to much needed upgrading of the existing tube network." It had to be "extra" money—and it is. Half of it comes via the LDDC from the Department of the Environment, and half from the GLC, of which perhaps 70 per cent is an extra Department of Transport grant for this specific purpose.

The initial Docklands Railway to be opened in 1987 consists of a line from Minories/Tower Hill in the City (District & Circle Underground Lines) to Poplar; a line from Mile End underground station (Central, District and Metropolitan) via Mile End Road, Bow Road and a redundant British Rail goods line to Poplar; and a third stretch of line from the junction of these two south through the Isle of Dogs—with its Enterprise Zone, a prime LDDC development area—to Island Gardens looking across the river to Greenwich.

The parliamentary Bill seeking powers to construct the Minories-Poplar-Island Gardens line was placed before Parliament in November and is expected to become law by next summer. In the meantime London Transport, the LDDC, the GLC and consultants will be working furiously to prepare detailed plans and tender documents. Mr Dorey hopes the chosen contractors or consortium of contractors will be in a position to start work early in 1984.

This stretch of the line largely follows elevated rights of way. Starting at an elevated station at the east side of Minories it will, after about 2 miles, join the existing British Rail viaduct out of Fenchurch Street, on which it will have exclusive use of a pair of tracks to a point just short of Stepney East station. It then diverts onto the existing but disused Blackwall Railway viaduct and from there to a junction just south of Poplar High Street, which will serve both a Depot and the other, north-south, line.

From here the line crosses the three West India Docks on a new viaduct, skirts Millwall Dock to the north and east and, using the route of another dis-

used railway, reaches its terminus at Ferry Street/Island Gardens, close to the foot tunnel to Greenwich.

One reason why a light rail scheme is so much cheaper than conventional rail or tube is that its trains will be able to climb steep gradients (up to 1 in 20) and turn tight curves (25-30 metres' radius). The route can therefore join existing structures and rights of way.

A few months after royal assent for the first Bill, the promoters will, in November, 1983, be depositing a second Bill empowering them to construct a line from the Poplar junction along the disused goods line to Bow Road and then, crossing the busy A11 road traffic with the help of priority traffic signals, probably along a central reserved track in the middle of Bow Road. Further traffic lights set to give trains priority will allow them to cross to their terminus immediately east of the present Central/District/Metropolitan Lines underground station at Mile End.

Both LTE and LDDC are keenly aware that the quality of interchanges, and the way they are signposted and promoted, will be crucial to the success of the Docklands Railway. At Mile End the interchange is likely to be a short flight of steps down to the underground; at Minories an escalator will bring passengers down to the existing pedestrian subway system, involving a 200 yard walk to Tower Hill District/Circle Line station. The running time from Island Gardens to Tower Hill is expected to be about 16 minutes (a good route for tourists wanting to visit both the Tower and Greenwich); overall journeys times to Oxford Circus via Mile End about 37 minutes and to Liverpool Street 26 minutes. Frequency of trains will range from one every 10 minutes off-peak to one every five minutes at peak times.

The appraisal which persuaded the Government to back the project makes it clear that confidence in public transport increases with its impression of "permanence": people believe more in trains coming regularly than in buses doing so. But from LDDC's point of view the Docklands Railway has another function: to increase public and institutional confidence in Docklands as a place to work and set up business. For that reason LDDC chief executive Reg Ward would like his new railway to have a high technology image.

The new Docklands Railway will then give Londoners a taste of the kind of rapid transit system that some continental cities have long enjoyed and many North American cities like Calgary and San Diego have recently been developing. Its scope for extension is wide. The north-south line could, for instance, connect to the British Rail tube interchange and major shopping centre at Stratford; the east-west line will, with luck, be extended to Beckton

and perhaps even to Barking via the Royal Group of Docks and Silvertown. If a Short-Take-Off-and-Landing Airport goes ahead at the Royals the development accompanying it would benefit from and help to justify this extension. A Docklands Rail line could even be made to hang under the bridge of the proposed East London River Crossing to provide an extension to Thamesmead. Much depends on the public success of the project and the progress of the Docklands development.

One question yet to be solved is how

to promote the Docklands Railway as something distinct and different from the London Underground, yet closely linked with it. Just how, for instance, should it be shown on the Underground map? This and the choice of livery to paint the trains will be among the last questions to be answered, and the most sensitive.



An artist's impression of how the Docklands tram-type rapid transit system may look, produced for Metro-Cammell who have taken part in feasibility studies. Right, a map of the proposed routes.





Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne?  
For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
~~I'll give ye a hand o' mony~~  
Johnnie Walker Black Label  
For auld lang syne.



Despite Its Price, The Most  
Sought-After De Luxe Whisky In Scotland.

1715 carats



Cordon Bleu by Martell



*The supreme cognac since 1715*

# THE COUNTIES

## *Elsbeth Huxley's*

# WILTSHIRE

*Photographs by David Beatty*



My childhood memories are not of Wiltshire; I was 30 when I came to live here but I have been here ever since—and that is 45 years—in north Wiltshire, that is almost on the Gloucestershire border. The distinction is important; a sort of chalk curtain separates the north from the south of the county. The word "Wiltshire" summons up for most people the great white Plain with its villages clustering along the shallow valleys of chalk streams; thatched lime-washed cottages; tank-tracks scarring hillsides; and the spire of Salisbury Cathedral rising from that ancient city at the foot of the Plain. All this is quite different from north Wilts which is less spectacular, generally flatter (the Marlborough downs excepted) and agriculturally richer. Industrially richer, too, for there is Swindon.

There is, indeed, Swindon; it swells and swells, peppering green fields with matchbox houses all alike and with hideous factories, and poised to gobble up pleasant little market towns like Wootton Bassett and Cricklade—a

**The white horse at Westbury was first cut, according to legend, by Alfred the Great.**

sort of boa-constrictor swallowing goats whole. I am told that this is unjust to Swindon, which is trying hard to be good by preserving as parks bits of the fields it has destroyed, by planting trees—50,000 a year, it is claimed—and by restoring what is left of its past. Right in the heart of the sprawl is a hill, and on top lies The Lawn, where the Goddard family lived for nearly four centuries. Part of the grounds, laid out by Capability Brown, survives as a city park. One of my neighbours, now aged 82, has described to me her youth in service in the splendid Georgian mansion, now demolished, with its staff of 16, its private chapel, its stables full of hunters, and its gamekeepers in green velveteen breeches coming to report on the state of the pheasants. All this right in the middle of Swindon and within living memory.

Among the villages under threat from Swindon are Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoze. The latter has an

18th-century manor house built on the site of a much older one by John St John, second Viscount Bolingbroke. When I saw it first it was a wreck, half the roof caved in, handsome crimson wallpaper peeling from sodden walls. It had lain empty for years after the death of the fifth Viscount whose widow, with her numerous progeny, had pigged it in the kitchen while the mansion crumbled around them. The progeny, so the story goes, were all born out of wedlock except for the youngest who was made legitimate when the Viscount, then aged 76, married his lady secretly and soon after died, leaving nothing but debts, the lusty bastards and the small and weakling heir. After an interval the Swindon Corporation, now the Borough of Thamesdown, bought the place and started on a long, expensive process of regeneration. Here are the two faces of Swindon: careful restoration of the mansion, inside and out, and, on the very boundary of the Park,

huge yellow machines grubbing up fertile fields for two new housing estates.

Literally within a stone's-throw stands a beautiful little 13th-century church with some of the finest 17th-century monuments in England, all to the glory not of God but of the St John family. The most famous of these is an elaborate triptych (dated 1615) which, when folded, traces the St John pedigree back to the Conquest. A larger-than-life-sized "golden cavalier", commemorating a younger son killed in 1645 at the Battle of Newbury, glows richly from the north wall.

Heading south, you soon leave the sprawl behind you and climb the Marlborough Downs, which of all parts of Wiltshire, and possibly of England, too, have the greatest wealth of visible remains of our ancient history. Visible, and unseen also; I defy anyone to visit Avebury without feeling the touch of mystery and the breath of wonder. Avebury is not just a ring of enormous sarsen stones standing on end, guarded by a ditch and muddled up with ➤



## Wiltshire

a village and two roads; it is a complex of stone circles and avenues, of man-made hills and burial chambers, covering a huge area. All these must have formed a great religious centre for our neolithic ancestors. They brought the first agriculture to Britain, the first domestic animals, the first stone and bone tools; and on these chalk uplands free of dense and dangerous forests, they built the first homes. Here we began. These downlands must have been much more densely populated then than is the case today.

massive deployment of labour as was needed to have placed these great boulders, must have been carried out without royal authority. So here, perhaps, government was born as well as religion.

It was the antiquary John

North Wiltshireman from

1600 to 1700, who

first suggested that

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